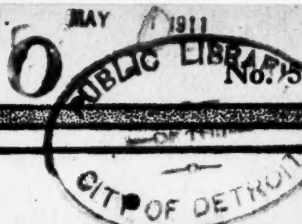
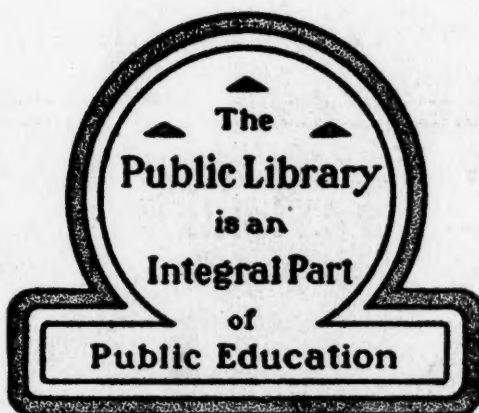


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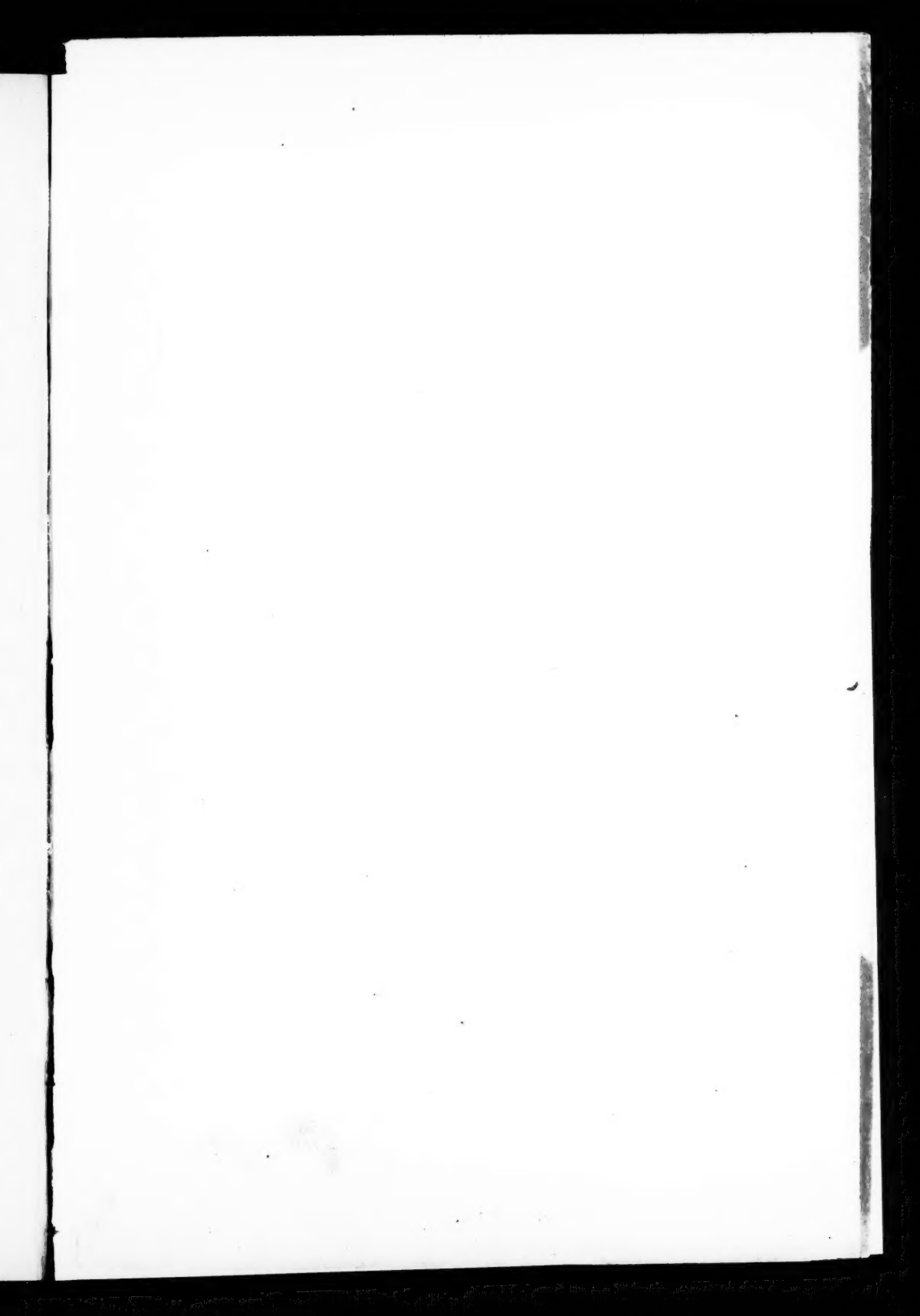
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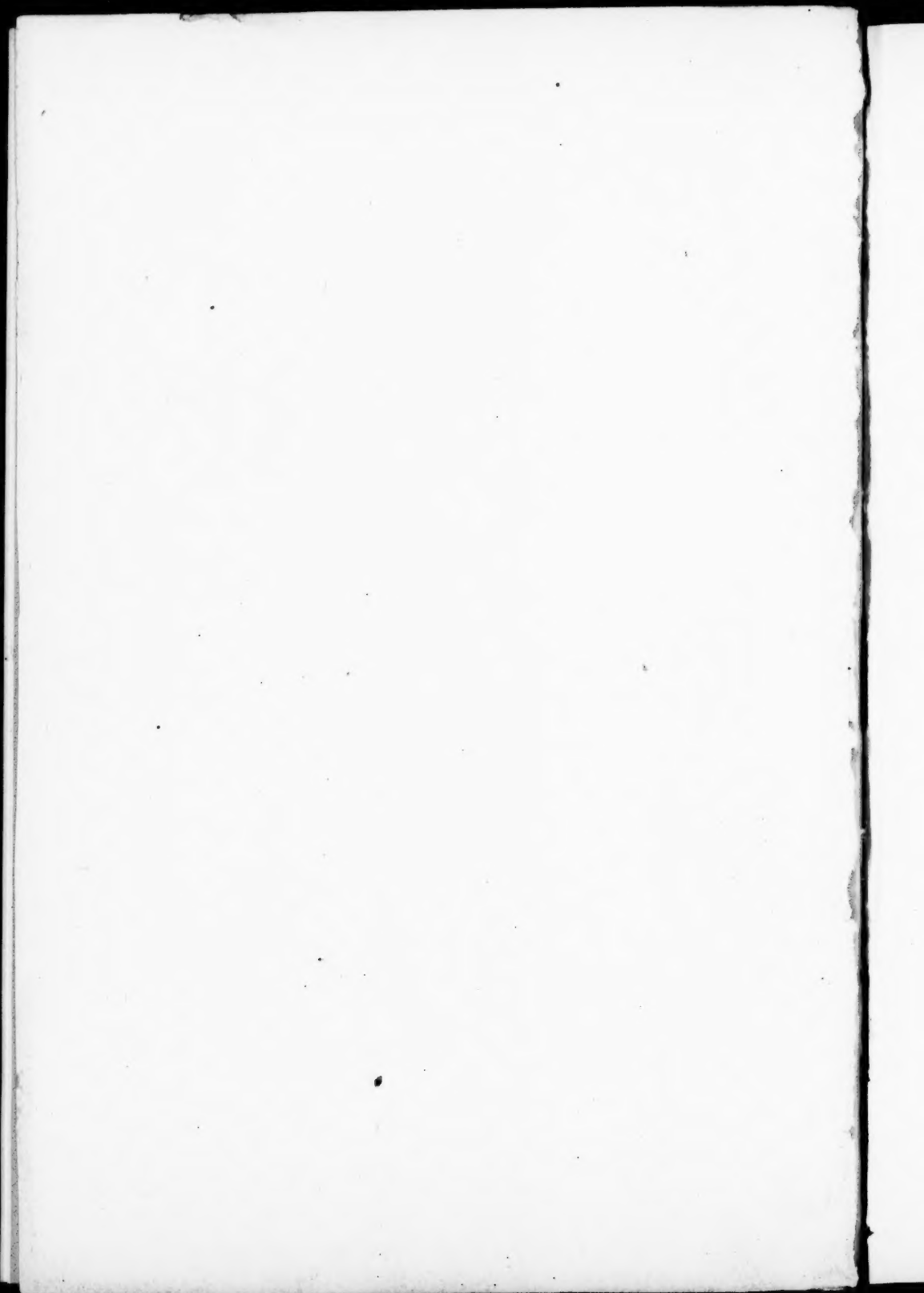
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Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 16

May, 1911

No. 5

Some New Fields of Library Activity

Louis N. Wilson, librarian, Clark university,
Worcester, Mass.

I recently heard a prominent educator comment on the difference in the training of the scientific student in Europe and in this country. He said that, as a general rule, the European student was more apt to spend a great deal more time and patience upon his laboratory work than the American student. He thought our students just as bright and just as capable as the European, but the methods seemed to vary on the two sides of the Atlantic. The European seems to take time to do his work more thoroughly than our men do, to consider the drudgery of preparation as more necessary to future results. Thus, he spends more time in making himself absolutely familiar with, or in gaining more expertness in, laboratory manipulation. On the other hand, our men are in so great a hurry to get out into the world and earn money that they think they cannot afford the time to repeat an experiment or to engage in work the immediate result of which is not apparent. In other words, our men are more apt to be content with a general knowledge of the subject, rather than willing to devote a great deal of time to a thorough mastery of it. He summed up the whole by saying that the American student seemed more the victim of restlessness than the European student.

How much truth there is in this I do not know, but I could not help wondering, as I listened to him, whether there was not something in it for the librarian. The ease with which libraries have been established and supported of late years

has tended to make our work a little bit superficial, I fear, at times, and there is some danger that, on the one hand, we may settle down to an easy complacency which would forever deprive us of the right to rank among the professions, or that we may partake of the national restlessness to such an extent as to jeopardize real progress. We may fritter away our time and energy by taking up every new fad that comes along—and there seems to be a new one born every day—or we may seriously enlarge our activities in sane and helpful ways.

First of all, we must not think that because a thing is new it is therefore good; nor must we, on the other hand, fight shy of, or be suspicious of, new things. The librarian must always keep the windows open toward Jerusalem and pray three times a day to be saved from the didactic, or what has sometimes been called the "schoolmarm" attitude.

In speaking now of new activities I do not mean the things of yesterday or of last year, but I mean the newer activities taken on by the library in the last few years. The development of the public library—and, indeed, the same is true of other libraries—has been so rapid that we are all apt to forget how very recent, and how very new, the library movement, as understood today, really is.

There are certain years in history that stand out with marked prominence, as the year 1776 does in the history of American independence; the year 1812, as the year of the second war with England; the year 1860, which brought on the Civil war; the year 1870, which brought about the republic in France, and so on, and there are other years

just as important for peaceful movements as these years I have mentioned are for great military movements. I think perhaps few of us realize how very important a year the year 1876 was in our history as a nation, marking, as it does, a turning point in our national life.

In this year, too, was held the first international exhibition in this country. Those of us who are old enough to remember the years immediately preceding this exhibition and the years immediately following have no hesitation in saying that perhaps no single event in the history of the country bore such immediate fruit as this Centennial exhibition held at Philadelphia in 1876. Prior to that time the number of Americans who had gone to Europe was very small. Since that time it has been exceedingly large. Prior to that time the furniture in even the best American houses was very inferior to what could be seen a few years after '76. Even the contents of the country stores was seen to have changed, and an artistic breath seemed to have been breathed over the length and breadth of the land. The exhibition was a revelation to a nation just emerging upon ease and affluence after the heavy burdens of the war; just beginning to feel its strength as a manufacturing nation; beginning to feel, too, somewhat of its ignorance, and anxious to try new things.

This is not the place, of course, to touch upon the great changes, both artistic and educational, brought about by the Centennial exhibition, but I mention it because in this same year was formed the American library association, which has done so much during its 30-odd years to mould public opinion in library matters and to bring about uniformity in library practice North, South, East and West. Whether, like our prosperity, this uniformity has been the best thing for us, I am not prepared to say, but there is no doubt of the fact that the American library association is largely responsible for this uniformity and for the library spirit so much in evidence in our day.

In this year, too, was opened the Johns Hopkins university at Baltimore, which has had such an important influence upon all matters of higher education in this country. Prof. Fabian Franklin, writing in *The Nation* on the death of President Gilman, says:

It is perfectly true that the time was ripe for the great forward step that was taken in Baltimore in 1876; vain aspirations in that direction existed in a number of places, and fragmentary efforts toward higher university work were made here and there, by some exceptionally gifted or exceptionally equipped professor in one or another of our leading institutions of learning.

I think the same might be said of the library movement, that the time was ripe for calling public attention in a concrete way to the importance of libraries, just as President Gilman called attention in a concrete way to the necessity of a new type of university. This the American library association did.

The late President Harper, at the dedication of the library of Colorado college, in March, 1894, had this to say about the college library:

It was only in comparatively recent times that a librarian was appointed at Harvard or at Yale, who should give his entire time to the care of the library. There are today many institutions, which rank high in their particular communities, in which one will find the same library conditions as those which Mr Poole described as having existed at Yale 30 or 40 years ago. I know of a college having an enrollment of 150 students, which each year "graduates" certain of its students, and yet in a room 10 by 12, bearing the name library, has not 250 volumes! To find the oldest and most primitive bounds of civilization we must go to the heart of Africa, or the frontiers of our own country occupied by the Indians! But for the old in education it is only necessary, one might say, to step across the street.

But the stage of development attained must be determined from the study of the highest, not the lowest, class, and although the old is all about us, there is also the new. Today the chief building of a college, the building in which is taken greatest pride, is the library. With the stack for storage purposes, the reading room for reference books, the offices of delivery, the rooms for seminar purposes, it is the center of the institutional activity. (The director of the library is not infrequently one of the most learned men of the faculty; in many instances, certainly the most influential. Lectures are sometimes given

by him on bibliography, or classes organized for instruction in the use of books.) The staff of assistants is often larger than the entire faculty in the same institution 30 years ago. Volumes are added to the number of 3000, 5000, 10,000, or 20,000 in a single year; the periodical literature of each department is on file; the building is open day and night. It is, in fact, the laboratory; for here now the student, and likewise the professor, who cannot purchase for themselves the books which they must have, spend the larger portion of their time. A greater change from the old can hardly be conceived.

But you will allow me to say a word about the future of the library. The time is coming—it has, indeed, already come—when, in addition to the general library of the institution, each department, or each closely related group of departments, will have its separate library. This will include the books in most common use, and the maps and charts of special value. The departmental library, now a feature of a few institutions, will be established everywhere, not alone for advanced students, but as well for the undergraduates. It is true that the cost of administration and the danger from loss of books are great, but the advantages are also great, and must be gained at whatever cost. The time is near when the student will do little of his work in the study; he must be in the midst of books. No ordinary student can afford to own one book in a hundred of those which he may wish at any moment to consult. As the scholar, though having thousands of volumes in his own library, must find his way to the great libraries of the Old World when he wishes to do the work of highest character, so the university student, though having hundreds of volumes in his own room, must do his work in the departmental library of the institution. The reference room is not sufficient, here only books of a general character are open to him. His table must be where, without a moment's delay, without the mediation of the zealous librarian, who perhaps thinks more of the book than of its use, he may place his hand upon that one of ten or twenty thousand books which he desires to use. In the address already cited, Mr Poole said:

"None of the universities named (these were Johns Hopkins, Yale, Harvard, Cornell and Michigan) have as yet quite come up to the high standard of having a professor of bibliography, but they are moving in that direction."

Some of us will see the day when in every great division of the university there will be professors of bibliography and methodology, whose function it will be to teach men books, and how to use them. It is pitiable to find that many graduates of our very best colleges are unable, upon taking up the more advanced work in divinity or in graduate course, to make good use of books. They can find

nothing. Do not know how to proceed in order to find anything. No more important, no more useful, training can be given men in college than that which relates to the use of books. Why do so many college men give up reading when they leave college? Because in the college they have never learned the use of books. The equipment of the library will never be finished until it has upon its staff men and women whose sole work shall be, not the care of books, not the cataloging of books, but the giving of instruction concerning their use.

Mr Carlton, in an admirable paper in the *Library Journal*, some years ago,* told us of the meager collections contained in the college libraries 50 years ago, and of the meager attention libraries received from the universities. The year 1850 is not a very long step backward, and in that day there were in the United States only five collections of books whose contents numbered over 50,000 v. each. These were the Library of Congress, the Boston Athenaeum, the Philadelphia library, and the libraries of Harvard and Yale. Bowdoin had only 17,000 v. in 1872; Amherst, Colby, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Trinity, the University of Vermont, Wesleyan, and Williams each had less than 8000 v. 50 years ago. Columbia, the largest college library in New York City, had less than 15,000 v., while today she has nearly half a million. In addition to this, we must remember that the largest proportion of books in college libraries 50 years ago were of a theological character, as most of the colleges were founded primarily for the purpose of educating ministers. Appropriations for the library were made very irregularly. Yale and Brown were practically the only colleges possessing endowment funds for the library. Yale had a fund of \$27,000 and Brown a fund of \$25,000, while Harvard had only the Hollis-Shapleigh fund, amounting to \$6000 and yielding \$450 annually. For nearly 50 years the sole revenue of the Princeton library was derived from a tax of \$1 a term on each student. At Bowdoin college the average annual expenditure for 80 years never exceeded \$200.

*Carlton, W. N. C. College Libraries in the mid-nineteenth century. *Libr. Jour.*, 1907. Vol. 32, pp. 479-486.

It was the custom in those days for some member of the faculty to serve as librarian. We must remember that the card catalog was unknown until 1876. The library quarters were only opened long enough to allow of the taking out and returning of books. Such a thing as consultation and use of books within the library itself was almost unknown. Bowdoin library was open one hour a day, three times a week; Colby and Wesleyan, half an hour, twice a week; Middlebury, one hour a week; Amherst and Trinity, once a week, hours not given. At Brown the hours were from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. daily; at Yale, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m., and 3 p. m. to 5 p. m. daily; at Harvard, 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. and 2 p. m. to 4 p. m. on the first four days of the week, and 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. on Friday. The Columbia library was open twice a week from 1 p. m. to 3 p. m. Princeton was open one hour, twice a week, and as late as 1868 this had only increased one hour a day, five days a week, and in '75-'76, to two hours on five days a week.

At South Carolina college the books were described as being arranged "in three great classes, of memory, of judgment, and of the imagination; or history, philosophy, and poetry," while at Wake Forest, N. C., the books are said to have been arranged "according to appearance."

I have quoted thus freely from Mr Carlton's paper to show how young most of our present library methods are, and, while we may not have many instances of the ideal library as outlined by President Harper, there are many striving toward that end.

The resources of the larger libraries, both public and university, have been much enlarged by the system of inter-library loans now so general throughout the country. It is of the greatest convenience to a student that the library in his town can draw upon the resources of some of the largest libraries in the country to supply him with the materials needed for his information or investigation. The time was not so long ago when writers were obliged to make frequent trips to distant libraries, or even to spend

a week or two in some city on account of its library facilities. While this must always be true for certain classes of work, the introduction of the inter-library loan has reduced this necessity more than one-half, I am sure. A still more recent step taken by some of the larger libraries is that of developing a system of expert assistance, by securing the help of experts in various fields for limited periods of time. In some cases this work consists in having an expert work over special material in the library to make its value known and to advise as to additions that may be made to the collection. In one of the college libraries where student debate material is called for a special sum is appropriated to enable the library to engage the services of an advanced student or a young instructor, who shall search after and lay out literature on the subject desired. He takes complete charge of the material and assumes all responsibility for it until the debate is over, making such rules for its use as he sees fit, always, of course, subject to the approval of the librarian. A special room is also set apart for this purpose.

In the same way advanced students in various departments are engaged to give help to those who are preparing papers or dissertations for higher degrees. One helps in biology, another in education, and so on throughout the departments as needed, but the idea is to have always at hand an expert who can give help in any department. Of course, there is sometimes delay, because these people are not at the library every day, but, as I understand it, the system permits of getting at any of these people within 24 hours by the librarian.

Sometimes a case arises where help must be sought at a distance, and we can all testify that even the librarians in the smallest libraries are already availing themselves of the resources of the larger libraries, by applying to them for help, not only in lending books, but in recommending books for special studies or the special needs of their constituents.

The periodical problem is always with

us—large library or small library—it makes no difference. In the larger libraries the difficulty of keeping in close touch with the periodical literature as it appears from month to month is a great one. Here, again, some of the larger university libraries have secured outside aid to compile lists of all the important papers appearing in the scientific periodicals. No matter how well trained the staff in a library may be, the advanced student in the various branches can always do this work better than the library staff. So they are secured from each department to check off the literature in special fields, and once a week these are written out and posted on the bulletin board in the various departments.

Printed bibliographies are now collected as never before, and these again are supplemented by others made in the library. If a professor or student works up a subject, he is supplied with slips, on which he writes the subject heading and inserts it at any point in the book or magazine where there is an article he thinks he may need to refer to again, or to which he may wish to refer his students. When the book is returned to the desk, the library attendant makes the reference and classifies it as he has directed.

I may be wrong, but I have a feeling that this system of expert helpers will ere long be extended and organized in such a way as to prove one of the greatest advances yet made in library work. Of course, this applies only to the larger libraries.

There is still one other subject that has been taken up quite extensively of late by the larger libraries, and that is the social service movement.

We at Clark university have set aside a room 60 feet by 20 feet, lined with book shelves 7 feet high, for this Social service literature, and a room 20 feet square for a private office for the special attendant who has charge of it. The literature I speak of does not embrace bound volumes of periodicals like *Charities*, nor year books like the *Proceedings of the National Conference of Charities and Correction*. What I refer to is the some-

what fugitive literature—circulars, leaflets, and material small in size but important when studying these subjects, that is so hard to classify and take care of in the ordinary library.

Clark university library keeps in touch with some 80 or 90 organizations for defectives and delinquents, moral and religious training, relief for sick children, recreation, welfare work and protections and has made special collections bearing on Industrial insurance and old-age pensions, Housing associations, Building and loan associations, Household economies, Societies for working girls, Associations for the protection of family life (*Divorce movements*), Labor problem as affecting women and children, Temperance movement, Civic improvement, Sunday leagues, Civil Service reform league, Humanitarian leagues (*Peace movements*), Welfare movements. This material is kept in large manila envelopes and we find this recent addition to our library facilities very valuable. The attendant having it in charge is a trained psychologist and is one of the more highly paid library attendants. The expense of making the collection itself has probably not exceeded \$200, outside of the attendant's time, the chief items being stationery and postage. Over 3000 postals were sent out, requesting circulars and information, and over 2000 letters were written for the same purpose. We have in these envelopes, arranged by subjects, about 5000 reports and pamphlets representing 100 types of organizations devoted either wholly or in part to Child welfare. It would not be possible for the smaller libraries to take up this work in the way the larger libraries can, but there may be a suggestion here for some of the smaller libraries to try to do something for their community, either in the way of improving the housing conditions, hygienic conditions in schools, or in the community generally, create a sentiment for the establishment of a hospital or a district nurse in a manufacturing community, as has been done in one town in Massachusetts with most excellent results. Connecticut is a manufacturing

state, and if the librarian in any manufacturing town or village would collect information as to the benefit accruing to both employer and employe where a district nurse is connected with the mill or shop, it might lead to the establishment of more district nurses in mill communities and make more sympathetic the relations between the mill owner and the operative. Of course, we must not expect the millennium all at once, and some of you may object on the ground that this is not legitimate work for librarians. Perhaps not, but it is one of the newer movements that is in the air, and while I have some doubt myself as to whether all these new movements are wise, I think it behooves us to approach them with an open mind and to try them out, if possible, without committing ourselves for or against them, until we have some definite experience to base our judgment on. The cynical attitude, the exclusive attitude, the hopeless attitude we have had in library work, to perhaps a less extent than in any other occupation, but we must guard against its creeping in, and the best way is for the librarian to get enthusiastic over something and work it out for all it is worth. If the movement, whatever it may be, proves a failure, the librarian has the benefit of the experience and the community will certainly have been roused to a sense that there is a library in its midst, and that the library is doing something. I am often reminded that the mere "doing something" is not always a good sign, but I cannot help thinking of the man who objected most strongly to contributing to foreign missions, on the ground that there were many poor at home to be taken care of, but who was never known to give a cent to the selfsame poor; so, while we should condemn all useless activities, let us at least seek out something to commend and put some of our enthusiasm into it. If the librarian is enthusiastic and has the welfare of the community at heart, that enthusiasm cannot fail to be caught by someone in the community and something will be accomplished. We are not to despise small beginnings.

The Evil that Books Do

Edmund L. Pearson, Newburyport, Mass.

That books have an influence for good is not a subject for argument in a library magazine. The good influence of books, however, is usually more indirect than some enthusiastic persons imagine. Once in a while the perusal of a single volume may turn the current of a man's life toward virtue,—but such cases are rare. The permanent influence of books is slower and much more subtle than that.

In a library epoch, which it is to be hoped is rapidly passing away, the influence of books, both for good and for evil, has been wildly exaggerated. At the library school we used to estimate the "social effects" and "present value" of books on a numerical scale, a pleasant exercise strongly resembling that of ascertaining the beauty of an Easter lily by means of a tape measure, or the exact worth of a rainbow in terms of x .

There pervaded the school such a curious notion of the quick effect of books and the almost holy mission of librarians that when one student, of whom the school was particularly proud, departed to become the librarian of a certain town, we confidently looked for immediate results. I think we expected to see the torch of civilization flare up suddenly in that place. But, unfortunately, only a few days after Miss Blank's arrival the town (unknown to fame before) figured in newspapers all over the country as the scene of several atrocious crimes, including a murder, a lynching and a suicide.

Whereat, one of the more cynical students remarked: "Ah, well; you see Miss Blank hadn't time to get one of her picture bulletins up!"

The impatient reformer hopes to make people temperate by prohibitory legislation—wise in one place and unwise in another; the superficial moralist thinks to save the land from mental and physical degeneracy by anti-cigarette agitation, and the eager librarian sometimes loses all sense of proportion in his desire to make everybody come to the library

and read a certain collection of books sanctioned by the A. L. A., and so chosen that of its component parts fiction shall be one of the lesser.

But on the general proposition that good books have a good influence there is no dispute. We may differ as to whether this influence is direct or indirect, slow or sudden, great or small, but none of us will deny its existence. Then the opposite may be true? And bad books have an evil influence? Here is a good, broad generalization, and on it, again, we can all agree.

When, however we come to dissect it there must arise difference of opinion. Not that anyone doubts the bad influence of a book that advocates the assassination of chief rulers, or denies the morality of the Commandment against stealing, or belongs to the class of pornographic literature, or is otherwise outside the pale of decency. But there are other books which many librarians deem bad, believing them to be active agents of wickedness.

It may be remarked, parenthetically, that some librarians—very frequently those in children's rooms—are rather over-watchful to discover a possible evil influence in books. This is a righteous impulse, but it may become an obsession. An inquiry about Kenneth Grahame's "The Golden Age" and "Dream Days" in the children's room of a large public library a few months ago elicited the information that the books were not allowed in the room. The inquirer agreed that children would not care for them, but he was astonished to be told that that was only part of the reason for their exclusion.

They might also be "harmful" to children!

To anyone familiar with Kenneth Grahame's exquisite work such an answer is in the highest degree ludicrous. That is,—it is ludicrous unless your mind has been especially trained to find something possibly harmful in any book, from Emerson's Essays to the poems of Mrs Felicia Hemans.

"Sensational" literature is thought

harmful by many librarians and many other persons. Sensational literature includes a good deal. It includes "Richard III," "Treasure Island," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," as well as most books called "dime novels."

Concerning "dime novels" (nickel novels they are now), there is so much misconception that librarians might do well to try to correct some of it. This does not mean anything so foolish as circulating them in the libraries or advocating their use. They are flat and vapid—sickeningly so, it seems, to me, though I am well aware that some men whose literary judgment is worth five like mine, read them with pleasure. But as some persons, and, it maybe, even a few librarians, still consider them deadly poison, direct inciters to crime and mischief, it will do no harm to transcribe an interesting conversation reported by George Cary Eggleston in his "Recollections of a varied life." This conversation occurred at the Authors' club and two of the parties to it were no less than John Hay and Edwin Booth.

"The dime novel," Mr Hay said, "is only a rude form of the story of adventure. If Scott's novels had been sufficiently condensed to be sold at the price they would have been dime novels of the most successful sort. Your boy wants thrill, heroics, tall talk and deeds of derring-do, and these are what the dime novelist gives him in abundance, and even in lavish superabundance. I remember that the favorite book of my boyhood was J. B. Jones' Wild Western Scenes. His Sneak was to me a hero of romance with whom Ivanhoe could in no way compare."

"But dime novels corrupt the morals of boys," suggested some one of the company.

"Do they?" asked Mr Hay. Then a moment later he asked: "Did you ever read one of them?"

The interrupter admitted that he had not.

"Till you do," said Mr. Hay, "you should hesitate to pass judgment. The

moral standards of the dime novel are always of the highest. They are even heroic in their insistence upon honor and self-sacrifice in behalf of the right. They are as chivalric as the code of honor itself. There is never anything that even squints at toleration of immorality. The man beset by foes is always gallantly supported by resolute fellows with pistols in their hands which they are ready to use in behalf of righteousness. The maiden in trouble has champions galore, whose language may not always square itself with Sunday-school standards, but whose devotion to the task of protecting innocence is altogether inspiring."

"What about their literary value," asked someone in the group.

"It is very bad, I suppose," answered Edwin Booth, "but that isn't the quality they put to the front. I have read dozens, scores, hundreds of them and I have never challenged their literary quality, because that is something to which they lay no claim. Their strength lies in dramatic situations, and they abound in these. I must say that some of them are far better, stronger, and more appealing than many of those that have made the fortune of successful plays."

"Do you read them for the sake of the dramatic situations, Mr Booth," someone asked.

"No; I read them for the sake of sleep," he replied. "I read them just as I play solitaire—to divert my mind and to bring repose to me."

The natural retort is this: Edwin Booth read dime novels after he was a grown man, when they could do him no harm. John Hay read them when he was a boy, it is true, but he was a boy who had good home influence and a college education. That is the reason why, instead of becoming a desperado and outlaw he followed the somewhat more respectable career of private secretary to Lincoln, poet and biographer, ambassador and secretary of state. Boys who have not his environment cannot read such sensational stories without taking harm.

That is the popular belief. The news-

papers are full of stories of boys who have run away from home, or committed some crime "through reading dime novels." The average person believes in this cause of youthful downfall (on the testimony of an irresponsible newspaper paragraph) without any investigation. Is it true?

Here is the testimony of August Drähms, chaplain of the state prison at San Quentin, Cal. It may be found on page 291 of his work, "The criminal; His personal environment; A scientific study." (New York: Macmillan, 1900.)

The place of pernicious literature in the list of formative agencies in the genesis of precocious criminalism is incidental, applicable to a limited class, and by no means to be taken in the conventional sense usually attributed to it by theorists. The criminal mind is not responsive to literary ideals, its imaginative grasp being feeble, and since the heroic rarely incarnates itself in minor offenses, it follows that, if reached at all, it is by way of the more serious offenses, as highway robbery, vendetta, etc. As these are the latter stages of criminalism, it suggests that flashy literature at the most only aggravates, rarely originates, the latent criminal propensity. But few respond thereto, and these chiefly as an advanced symptom of the malady. I have met but few such instances.

It may reasonably be asked: what is the use of wasting space in a library magazine with a discussion of dime novels when no one, not even the writer of this article, would for an instant advocate their admission to the public libraries?

The answer is that librarians are concerned with all kinds of literature—both with the kinds that they exclude as well as the kinds that they include in libraries. That, moreover, librarians ought to have a sound reason for their acts of exclusion and know what it is. That there are still a number (a steadily lessening number) of librarians who labor under the mistaken belief that the reason for keeping dime novels out of libraries is a moral one, whereas it is not a question of morals at all, but of art. The reason for giving a boy Sherlock Holmes and denying him Old Sleuth is not ethical but aesthetic.

The subject has interested me ever

since a schoolmate of mine tried to run away to the West to fight Indians. When he was captured and brought back it was given out that he had been misled by dime novels. His parents probably liked to blame dime novels for what was really the result of their own neglect. Those of us who knew him, knew that he never read dime novels at all. He didn't read anything—he was too stupid. There were some books, however, responsible for his outbreak, and they were: Colburn's Arithmetic, Harper's School Geography, the Fourth Reader, and Somebody's Speller. I have never heard of any of *them* denounced as immoral, but their influence on that occasion was exactly that which is so often attributed, and falsely attributed, to dime novels.

An experience has shown that it is quite possible for anyone writing or speaking on this subject to be misunderstood and misquoted let me state my opinions categorically:

1) Dime novels should, of course, continue to be excluded from public libraries.

2) Boys should be discouraged from reading them.

3) This is not because they are immoral, but because they are poor art.

4) Boys found reading them should not be treated as if they had been detected in a crime, nor should the dime novel be burned or otherwise destroyed in public with a great show of moral indignation. Because if this be done the dime novel instantly becomes invested with the charm of the forbidden, and the boy will not rest until he gets another.

Another class of books to which many persons attribute an evil influence is that line of feebly salacious novels for adults, of which one or two English women are the most prominent authors. Here again we are speaking of books which practically every library excludes. And here again it seems as if there were small cause for worry. One of the most notorious of them, one whose name figured incessantly in the theaters, the press and

elsewhere for over a year, was so pitiful in its attempts to be indecent as to bring tears to the eyes. If anyone's morals were harmed by it, those morals must have been already in a shaky condition. After it had been advertised for a year or so, I made a determined attempt to read it, but gave it up, bored to extinction at the end of the third or fourth chapter. There is something positively pathetic about an age which buys such novels secretly, reads them behind lock and key, hides them under pillows and discusses them with bated breath. For one thing, it indicates that such an age is absolutely ignorant of the classics.

From another point of view, however, the thing is hopeful, for if we still can be shocked and horrified by such as these, we are in a state of mind, compared with which Ivory soap (99 44-100 pure) is full of pollution.

Librarians can make just one error about such books: publicly to announce their exclusion. That is, of course, an advertisement which fills their authors and publishers with glee.

There are two conclusions to be stated—neither of them startlingly novel, but perhaps worth consideration:

1) The good influence of books may safely comfort all librarians, and

2) The evil influence of books is smaller than many of us suppose, and should cause even less disquiet than it does at present.

The Last Straw

Deep in a dreary stackroom
A sad librarian stood.
It was a gloomy back room
Of iron and of wood.
Forth from his lips there issued
This melancholy song:
"Oh, life it is so fleeting,
And learning is so long!

"From sunrise unto sunset
I strive my very best
To lighten the afflictions of
The mentally distressed.
But now I've reached my limit,
For oh, two wretched men
Are waiting in the reference room
To learn 'Why is a hen?'"

The Social Work of a Library*

The work of a library may be divided into two parts—educational and recreational. Both are distinctly social, so that in reporting for the Sub-committee on libraries I might legitimately review all that is being done by the libraries of St. Louis in both directions. I shall confine myself, however, to the library with whose efforts I am most familiar, and I shall select those parts of its work that are most evidently social in their methods and results.

Thus considered, the Public library of this city is attempting social work of the following types:

1) Efforts to make the work of the library better known in the community; to familiarize our citizens with its resources, methods, abilities, willingness and aims.

2) Efforts to improve the standard of reading.

3) Coöperation with other educational agencies, especially with the public schools.

4) Coöperation with the municipal authorities.

5) Efforts to make the library in some sense a social center for the community immediately around it, especially in the case of branch libraries.

6) Efforts to furnish special facilities to social workers of all kinds for performing their work more intelligently and efficiently.

I shall enumerate briefly, under each of these heads, what the library is now doing.

1) Publicity. No matter how good an institution may be; no matter how well equipped or how ready to do public service, it is absolutely worthless unless the public knows that it exists and that it is able and willing to render service of a specified kind. It is true that the best advertising is that done through those to whom satisfactory service has been rendered; but every commercial institution

knows that this is not enough. Some individuals and some sections of a community can be reached only through a megaphone or with letters two feet high. Mr. Page, of the *World's Work*, tells of a New Yorker who had gazed for years from his office window straight at the huge sign of that magazine, across Union square, and yet remained ignorant that there was such a publication. So every librarian is frequently discouraged by meeting and talking with citizens, in all walks of life, who are ignorant of his work—what it is, what it means, and what it is driving at. Some active measures of publicity are absolutely necessary if the library is to reach all parts of the community. Such measures with us include the publication and free distribution of a monthly bulletin containing an annotated list of additions, with library news-topics of current interest and occasional lists of books on special topics; the constant issue of separate lists, large and small, printed and mimeographed; the furnishing of library items, at brief intervals, to the city press, whose continued interest in the library has been of great value to us in this part of our work; the display of placards and the distribution of cards giving the location of the nearest branch and inviting its neighbors to use it, and, more recently, the utilization of the large show windows of the temporary central quarters to display collections of books, posters and other material calculated to attract the attention and stimulate the interest of passers-by. That we have not gone too far in all this may appear from such facts as the following:

1) A house-painter, resident in St. Louis for 15 years, was found in conversation recently to be ignorant even of the existence of the St. Louis public library.

2) A teacher in the public schools, on hearing the Public library mentioned, remarked: "We have a fine library in Carondelet,* too; who manages that?"

3) A passer-by, seeing a collection of illustrated books of travel in our window, entered the library and asked for one,

*A report of the Sub-committee on libraries, read before the Social Service conference, St. Louis, Feb. 24, 1911, by the chairman, Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian, Public library, St. Louis, Mo.

*A branch of St. Louis public library.

saying: "I didn't suppose you had books of travel in the library."

These instances are typical and might be multiplied indefinitely. Evidently we have not yet reached the proper limit in our publicity work.

2) Efforts to improve the standard of reading. The phrase "good reading" is ambiguous. One book may be "better" than another in any or all of three ways—it may be better literature, convey more accurate facts or have a better moral tendency. It is the library's duty to work in all three directions. In estimating the accuracy of information we rely, of course, on persons who know their subjects—members of the staff, experts in city educational institutions, whom we cannot too warmly thank for giving us their time and thought in this connection, and the compilers of authoritative lists and bibliographies in all parts of the country and in all departments of knowledge. Once on our shelves, these books are brought to the attention of readers by the lists already mentioned and by the personal efforts of our assistants. Such efforts are, of course, of most avail with children. Each of our libraries, central and branches, has its separate children's department, in charge of an experienced children's librarian. Within the past year these have been organized into a department with an administrative head who is at the same time in charge of the Central children's room. Special care is exercised in the selection of children's books and in the personal attention given to children at the library. It is certain that such attention may be made an active influence for good in the lives of many children and that this influence may even extend through them to the homes from which they come. One of the most interesting recent factors in this influence is the story-hour—the revival in a systematic way of the oral method of education through narrative, which we, of course, direct in such manner, though unobtrusively, as to interest the children in books—most successfully, as it seems to me.

3) Educational coöperative work. This

library, originally founded as a public school library, under control of the Board of education, has continued to work in close touch with the schools since it became an independent institution, many years ago. Large numbers of books are loaned to them directly for class-room use, including many hundreds of sets of the same title of 30 v. each, for reading exercises. This work has now been placed in charge of a separate Traveling library department, whose work is constantly broadening by extension to many fields beyond that of the public school, but all more or less distinctly educational—the parochial or private school, the reformatory institution, the hospital, the study-club, even the great commercial or manufacturing house that desires to furnish reading facilities to its employees. The prospects of such work as this, as plainly shown by the experience of other cities, are almost boundless, being limited only by the amount of money that the library can afford to spend in it. Coöperation with educational institutions does not end, of course, with the provision of books. Both teachers and children are welcomed in the libraries and we try to do what we can to provide literature, facilities and personal aid for both in connection with school work. We are also carrying on an educational work of our own in direct connection with the library, by the maintenance of a training class for the preparation of candidates for our work. In the breadth and interest of the courses, the high class of instruction and the standard of scholarship we are trying to make this a distinct addition to the educational facilities of St. Louis, and we are now preparing, in conjunction with the Missouri library commission, to conduct a joint summer school, during the season just approaching, which will offer needed training, free of charge, to all the librarians in the state who have been unable otherwise to secure it.

4) Efforts to coöperate with the municipal authorities. The establishment of legislative reference libraries, both for states and cities, is one of the most sig-

nificant steps taken in recent library development. The whole trend, not only of legislation, but of efficient administration, is dependent on the availability of information—its presence at the proper spot; its proper classification and indexing, and the existence of a person who knows how to find and use it and to aid others in doing the same. Most of this information is not in books—rather in documents, reports, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers—so that a library of this sort is largely one of pamphlet boxes and collections of clippings, with full card indexes prepared by an expert. Most such libraries have been established under separate auspices, but if a city is already maintaining a public library there is no reason why the legislative and administrative work should not be a part of its activity. It is to be so here in St Louis. The Public library here has always contained and made available a large amount of material of this sort, but experience shows that its efficient use by those who ought to use it depends on its proximity to the city offices. We are, accordingly, to establish a municipal reference branch in the City hall and the details of the plan are now being worked out.

5) Efforts to make the library a social center. These have gone furthest in the branch libraries, as is natural, owing to their local or neighborhood character. Each has an assembly room and one or more club rooms which are given free to any organizations desiring to use them for intellectual advancement or for legitimate forms of recreation, provided, of course, no admission fee is to be charged. The branch librarian makes an effort to get and keep in touch with all labor and industrial organizations in the vicinity, to consult their needs and wishes in the provision of reading matter and to make them feel in every way that the library is to be looked upon as an intellectual center in the community. The rooms are used by organizations of widely different elements and aims. We have entertained thus women's clubs, chess clubs, groups of foreign workingmen, political associations of socialists, classes in literature

and philosophy, self-culture and reading circles, art or handicraft societies, athletic clubs, dramatic clubs, military organizations, ecclesiastical bodies, the Boy scouts, High-school alumni associations, classes for the study of English by recently arrived immigrants, and the public school patrons. In our rooms are held Christmas festivals, school-graduation exercises, cadet drills, the deliberative sessions of church assemblies and the regular meetings of the D. A. R. The beneficial effect of all this in localities where it was formerly difficult to obtain meeting-places, except in connection with a saloon, scarcely requires pointing out. Where no such clubs exist and there seems a need for them the library may take a hand in organizing them, especially in the children's department, but its later connection appears simply in its willingness to aid and to give quarters for meeting. All that we can do quietly to establish a connection between these activities and a love for books, we do, of course.

House-to-house visitation, which has proved of value in other cities in connection with this distinctly social side of library work, has not been carried on extensively, although it has been begun in two ways—visitation of children's homes by the children's librarians, to get acquainted with the parents and make them familiar with the library as a place of resort for their little ones, and a personal canvas of professional and business men in a library neighborhood, to talk with them about the library, acquaint them with its aims and ask for suggestions. All this, of course, is also publicity work and shows the difficulty of determining an exact dividing line between the sections of this report.

An important part of a branch library's community work consists in ascertaining special kinds or classes of books in demand, or likely to be in demand, in the neighborhood, and attempting to satisfy that demand. Books on a particular industry or trade or on some special subject that, for one reason or another, happens to be uppermost in the locality, may

thus be appreciated, and the fact that the library has found this out and has acted promptly on its information is apt to constitute a strong reason for looking upon it, and trusting it, as a neighborhood center. Especially is this the case with the newly arrived foreigner, who understands little English, and who thus appreciates with a depth of feeling that it is hard fully to realize the provision of reading matter in his native tongue. In the past 20 years libraries all over our land have begun to buy books in hitherto unknown tongues—Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Bohemian, Slovak, Lithuanian, modern Greek, Roumanian. The reason for providing these is social quite as much as philological.

The social features of a library come to the surface most strongly in the children's room, when the personal relations between the children and their "library teacher," as she is often called, may be very close. They go to her for advice, not about books only, but about lessons, play and personal conduct. She can control, if she will, their habits of thought, their personal cleanliness, the whole trend of character development. As an example of our efforts to make the right impression at the outset I may state that in our newest branch we have made the children sign a pledge before issuing their cards—a promise to obey the library's rules and care for its property. Each child reads the pledge aloud slowly and satisfies the assistant that its meaning is understood and that the promise is regarded as a serious undertaking.

The whole problem of the branch library as a social center is, of course, a personal one. It rests on "the man behind" the book (he is generally a woman) to make it a success. We are endeavoring to emphasize this in the instruction given to our own training class.

6) Special facilities for social workers. In recognition of the fact that the library is itself an institution for social service, an effort is being made to place our facilities with special promptitude and care, at the disposal of those who are doing work of the same type. Ways of

doing this are indicated above in what has been said of coöperation with educational and other institutions. In particular, at the request of the officers of this conference, we have recently set apart, in the public reference room, shelves bearing several hundred works on subjects that should particularly interest the social workers of this city. These are at all times accessible to such workers, and, in addition, members of our staff stand ready at all times to answer such special questions as they may be asked on the subjects in which they are interested, to compile special lists of books, to assist in following up special lines of investigation and to furnish the books themselves in quantity, in the form of a deposit, should this be desired.

As has been said above, every detail of a public library's work is a contribution toward the performance of a social service, but those here enumerated will, perhaps, appeal to members of this conference as of special interest.

Newspapers in Libraries

I have observed a tendency in some districts to abolish the newspaper reading room. I think, on the contrary, that they should be made a very useful part of every popular library. I mean by that, that a collection of the best newspapers from selected districts of the United States, and in the case of cities of over 1,000,000 inhabitants of the world, are the most actively educating influences which can be brought to bear against the mass of ignorance which it is the business of public libraries to dissipate.

Books, as applied to the condition of today, are generally far behind; the best exponent of daily events would be the spoken voice of an expert; next to that comes the daily expression of an opinion on the daily history of events as collected by expert members of the press.

It is a matter of much regret to me that all attempts to supply a monthly newspaper index have failed. Time after time we have subscribed to such undertaking, but for want of support they have ceased to exist. The annuals for which

we once could rely on Appleton, were to a certain extent annual newspaper indexes. Their new publication scarcely supplies the place.

WILLIAM BEER, Librarian.

Howard memorial library, New Orleans, La.

Looks Misleading

Recently this library has received, at intervals of a few days, two copies of a circular offering a set of Scott, listed at \$31, and, as a premium, a set of the Encyclopedia of United States History in 10 volumes, also listed at \$31, for the price of one set, \$31.

This seems, on the face of it, very generous; the librarian is disposed to snap it up as a bargain offer. But the publisher does not explain that the Encyclopedia of United States History, so far from selling at its list price, has been on the market for years at a mere fraction of its list price. Once a month, I presume, the work has been offered to me, by many dealers, at prices ranging from \$6 to \$12 for the set, and last week brought a quotation at \$3. The \$31 premium, therefore, reduces to \$3, amounting to a discount of a little less than 10 per cent on the list price of the Scott. "An extraordinary opportunity," indeed.

This does not seem legitimate business practice.

WILLIAM H. POWERS.
Brookings, S. D.

Avoiding Net Prices

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It is not my purpose to discuss the question of net books, either in general literature or in fiction, nor the question of the monetary advantage of the system and to whom it accrues—publisher, retailer, or author. From the very start I foresaw that it would be a serious detriment to libraries, and specially to those of limited income—and now that it has been extended to fiction, I am convinced that it affects the purchasing power of our appropriations at least 20 per cent.

My first experience of the new system was with a work two volumes of which

I had bought at \$2 less ¼, or \$1.50. The last two volumes cost me \$2 net less 10 per cent, or \$1.80. My first plan to meet the loss was to wait until the protection expired and I could buy the work at ¼ off or better. My boast to my people had always been: As soon as a book is issued you will find it on our shelves. Now I had to ask them to wait a full year for the service. I do not mean to say that I made this a hard and fast rule, applied absolutely to every book to be bought.

In some cases, where immediate purchase seemed to be necessary, I took my medicine, as the saying is, and submitted to what I considered an extortion, the result of one of the present-day combinations.

Time went on; my operations were enlarged—but I still suffered from *res augustæ bibliothecæ*, and had to watch the expenditure of every cent with jealous eye.

Then I took the steps that I still pursue—and which I recommend my brother librarians to follow, and from which they will receive nothing but satisfaction. The key to the situation is the import of books from the great circulating libraries of England at a half—a fourth—a third of their publication prices. These books are sometimes entirely new, sometimes slightly used, but always sufficiently staunch to be put into immediate circulation. You buy valuable books in belles-lettres, in biography, in history, science and art for a song. Saving money on every purchase, you are enabled to buy more extensively than you would under other circumstances, and you give greater satisfaction to your patrons. I will note two works which I received in my last lot: *Roose's Dutch painters of the 19th century*, 4 v., \$3.13; *Chignell's Life and paintings of Vicat Cole*, R. A., \$1.88. These were practically new and I would never for a moment have considered their purchase at original prices.

In these catalogs you find the newer works in all departments from six months to a year after issue. I have orders out now in London for books pub-

lished the latter part of 1910. The real fiction question with librarians nowadays is not whether people ought to read novels, but how the libraries can get enough for them to devour. The wear and tear is immense—the replaces often as costly as the originals; the duplicates eat up income. Mudie & Smith settle this question in more ways than one. In the first place, they offer fairly good stories that are never republished in or imported to this country. Then they offer "replaces" and duplicates all along the line, some newly bound, some slightly used, some entirely new, and you will find the price, not \$1.35 net less 1-10, \$1.22, but 25 cents, 37 cents, 50 cents, and possibly 63 cents. To those librarians who have never tried this method of getting around high prices and small discounts I would suggest that they write Mudies, 30 New Oxford st., London W. C., and W. H. Smith & Sons, 186 Strand, London, for catalogs. My importation orders are placed with a New York firm at a fixed rate of 25 cents (a shilling)—f. o. b. New York—they paying ocean freight and all expenses to that port. I pay the domestic freight. I will be satisfied for the trouble I have had in writing this letter if only one library receives the gratification that I have had from this method of book purchase.

Yours truly,
LIBRARIAN.

Coöperation Sought

The very unusual collections of the New York state library and library school, in bibliography, library economy and American library history, were totally destroyed by the fire of March 29. It is the purpose of the library to get together, as rapidly as may be, another such collection, and it is glad to believe that to this end it may confidently rely upon the coöperation of many friends who have, in the past two weeks, been so generous and so quick with offers of help, and to whose substantial and continuous past aid we were chiefly indebted for the collections that were lost.

The library will be glad to receive the following:

1) Sets of publications (reports, bulletins, etc.) of libraries, library schools, library commissions, associations, etc., including blanks and forms.

2) Books, pamphlets, papers, clippings, etc., relating to libraries, library work and bibliography.

3) From alumni of the New York state library school for students' work collection, an extra copy of material included in paragraphs 1-2, prepared by former students.

4) Pictures, picture postcards and plans of library buildings.

5) Photographs of librarians, including alumni of the New York state library school; A. L. A. officers, groups, etc.

6) Duplicates of any New York state library blanks, forms, and publications, especially bibliography and library school bulletins.

Shipments may be made to New York state library, 162 State street, Albany, N. Y.

JAMES I. WYER, JR, Director.

A Dishonest Book-Agent

A book agent here in Massachusetts, whose business enterprise much exceeds her discretion, is selling a very extensive juvenile encyclopedia in over 20 v. It is the very cheapest style of subscription book, so obviously unfit for a library that I hardly spent five minutes in examining it. This agent is now trying to help her sales by stating that the Brookline public library has bought the set of books. One librarian has just been cautious enough to telephone to ask me whether this was true!

I am so very unlikely to buy subscription books that I shall feel very sorry if any librarian is overpersuaded by this zealous agent to buy her books.

LOUISA M. HOOPER.
Brookline, Mass., March 22, 1911.

If you wish success in life make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsellor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius.
—Addison.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates

A word of direction—A note from the apostle of "the appraisal of literature," George Iles, calls attention to a deficit in the exact knowledge which communities possess in regard to their local celebrities, other than writers.

Mr Iles thinks writers are over-written about. Inventors, he thinks, have contributed quite as largely to the development of human intelligence, and yet it is the hardest thing to find exact facts relating to their careers. He cites the instance of "a man like Mergenthaler, whose linotype completes the cycle initiated by Gutenberg, but who has never attracted one-thousandth part of the attention directed to Poe, an incomparably smaller and less influential man."

"Too many who are interested in the careers of notables other than the cultural class are confined to little else than the old straw of newspapers and biographical dictionaries."

Here is a work which the public libraries might well spend some time on, to the lasting benefit and information of

those who will, in after years, have the task of tracing development in various lines to its original source. The criticism which is being leveled at libraries for their lack of interest in the active working part of the community might, therefore, be shared with those who record the material that goes to the making of books.

Sources of power—The contribution by Dr Wilson of Clark university on "Some new fields of library activity" (See page 183), is commended for careful perusal to the younger librarians. It is possible that in the rapid and comprehensive extension of which he speaks, knowledge of the historical background of library development has not been so clearly presented and emphasized as the requirements of accuracy would demand.

It is well for the newcomers to look backward as well as forward in their efforts to obtain efficiency in their work, and thereby become acquainted with the forces left behind by men and measures that were before the library world in the beginning of the modern movement.

Librarians in the vicinity of Chicago will be interested in reading the views of the late lamented Dr Harper as to the function of the great university library. There is accurate record of the increasing interest which Dr Harper took in library affairs up to the last of his public service. He affirmed publicly but a short time before the dreadful news of his illness was received, that the next great work of the University of Chicago should be the development of its library and that it would be along such lines and of such measure as should not be exceeded by any other library in the country.

When one recalls the splendid sweep of Dr Harper's view of things necessary

and adequate for the university for which he gained a world-wide reputation, one can but regret that the library world could not have profited by his prodigious power of organization and building before he was called.

It is undoubtedly true that the library will in time profit by his power, for it may truly be said of him that, "though he is dead, he yet speaketh" in the things of the University of Chicago, but his personal touch is not the possession of another. Such men form the high peaks in the race.

How far have we come?—The answers to the questions as to library development of the past 20 years (See page 203) are full of interest and suggestion for future development. The occasion of the questions is the fact that it has been 20 years since the A. L. A. last went to California, and much of that time has been the harvest period of the seed-sowing of the previous 15 years.

If it may be stated here without impropriety, the most important development as a whole has taken place in the nationalization of the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress in 1897 was a vast collection of books protected from the hordes of hungry politicians only by the personal power of one man, who was essentially a collector of books and who could not have done more than he did, for sheer limit of physical power in the maelstrom that prevailed around him. Now the well-regulated power of helpfulness and influence of the Library of Congress are too widespread and well known to require more than mention. That it has not been nationalized in name and in authority is still a defect which should be a responsibility to every librarian in the country, and which calls for

such help as each can contribute toward relieving the institution of the jeopardy of political changes to which it is still subject. It would be "a consummation most devoutly to be wished" that the next 20 years should see a national library in name, with an income on a firm basis, subject only to a natural increase without solicitation on the part of anyone, and with the doors to political preferment so closely barred that no power in the country could pass through them.

The state libraries of the country have also shown remarkable growth considering that the appointments within their doors are usually based first on the personal affiliations of the appointees. That there are exceptions to this rule makes the general condition the more lamentable. But even so, state libraries are not now often openly sold as political plums; usually there is some pretense of reason, "the homage that vice pays to virtue." The real state work in most states is done by the library commissions, those tributes—great as some of them are—to the power of the politician.

The city libraries are no longer storehouses of books, but distributors of knowledge and wisdom, and are steadily and by no means slowly coming into their places as "integral parts in public education" along every line.

Whether the seeding of the past 20 years has provided as bountifully as did the previous period is a question which only the future can determine, but more largely than ever before is "every man a debtor to his profession"; "the right lies in the payment of that debt—it can lie nowhere else."

Ottawa's invitation for 1912—Invitations from the provincial government, municipal authorities, library boards, and

a number of civic associations, to hold the next meeting of the A. L. A. in Ottawa, 1912, will be presented at the Pasadena meeting in May.

The magnificent hotel, which has been in course of construction for some time, will be completed this summer, so that the obstacle which has stood in the way of the association accepting the invitation, heretofore extended several times, will have been removed by the summer of 1912. Ample quarters, both for holding the meeting and the accommodation of the delegates, will be at hand.

The Province of Ontario is the most advanced in the development of library work, as well as in a number of other lines, in Canada. Singularly enough, nowhere else has the librarian been so small a factor in the plans which have been laid for the development of the work. This has resulted in a detriment to the work somewhat, since the trustees in whose hands the conduct of affairs, even to many small details, has been held are not always so free from personal and business responsibility as to give the right bent in the progress of affairs.

There are but few large public libraries in Canada, but a multitude of small ones, struggling with small means, an uninformed public, and sometimes inelastic boards. It has been 12 years since the association went across the border for its former meeting, which was held in Montreal. Owing to local conditions, little, if any, of the power and influence of the A. L. A. percolated outside of Quebec, so that, so far as the Dominion of Canada is concerned, the former meeting of the A. L. A. meant little or nothing.

Ottawa is an extremely interesting city, beautifully situated, the seat of the Dominion government, and those who have carried the burden of the develop-

ment of the Public library in that city, have engendered a feeling in regard to entertaining the A. L. A., that will go far toward making the meeting a very memorable occasion for the A. L. A., as well as for the library cause.

So far as known at present, there is every reason to believe there is nothing in the way of holding the 1912 meeting in Ottawa, and PUBLIC LIBRARIES would be glad to see that city chosen for the event.

A needless disaster — Many newspapers of the country have had much to say the last month about the carelessness of the library authorities in New York state causing the loss of the priceless treasures housed in the capitol which recently burned at Albany. That the situation is one that calls for the strongest condemnation of those in authority goes without question, but whether one is justified in speaking of them as library authorities is a question.

Dr Melvil Dewey, in whose splendid administration of 17 years the State library became the leading library in the country, and through whose foresight and wisdom was gathered within its walls such material as made it the source of information on an endless variety of subjects, never neglected an opportunity to drive home to legislative members in charge of library affairs the imminent danger from fire and the dire necessity, always present, of making provisions for fireproof storage of the priceless material in the State library. His pleas were met with indifference at first and afterward with stolid objection on the part of those who had learned that State library positions under Mr Dewey's administration were not to be passed around as political rewards, and who were not willing that

he should have the opportunity for fulfillment that such a building would afford. It is to the shame of the great state of New York, as well as to its everlasting loss, that because of this disgraceful feeling in the matter the permission for erecting a fireproof building for the State library was delayed until calamity fell.

One of the first things State-librarian Anderson did was to call attention to the danger threatening the library from fire. He was practically an untried source for political plums, and as the whole educational department demanded more room, permission for a new building was given, but too late to avert disaster to the library.

Small comfort it is now for anybody to say, "I told you so." In the first place, hardly anyone of this generation familiar with public affairs has not heard of the New York state capitol as an illustration of most shameless extravagance. The building was one that was conceived in sin, built in iniquity and destroyed by corruption. "The wages of sin is death," materially and intellectually, in this case, as well as spiritually. If other authorities shall gather from this a warning that will enable them to provide against similar disaster in other places, it is the only good that can be gathered from the circumstances. Is it too much to hope that New York conditions may be "cleansed as by fire?"

Fire destroyed the building and the best of the contents of the New York state library, but neither fire, malice nor political enmity can destroy the great ideals that Mr Dewey established there and which have had an ever increasing influence in library work everywhere, though he himself is no longer active in the library field. The work he did in extending the influence of the library until it touched the people throughout the state is going

to be the greatest asset in its rebuilding. He made it a help that came to their very doors instead of an intangible, distant literary monument as it might have been, and the people will not submit to anything less than they had learned to appreciate in library service, however they may acquiesce in the political ill-treatment of those who furnish the library service.

A Bit of the Original "Library Spirit"

It is not always easy for those of the present time who are just entering library work to understand why the phrase "library spirit" means so much to the older persons in library work. Its real flavor belongs to another period. A refreshing example of it is found in the letter which State-librarian Wyer received from Dr Melvil Dewey, when the latter heard of the dreadful disaster that had befallen the New York state library. The following extract is given with Mr Wyer's permission:

The building, which is only the shell, may burn; the books, which were our tools, may burn; but the chief thing, the spirit and influence of the State library and the Library school, you cannot burn or drown or down. As wide as civilization builds libraries, the influence of our library has reached and will reach, and no disaster can be more than a temporary interruption of its good work. I know in advance that you will find the old staff pure gold in this time of trial. If necessary, they will work in water and live on crackers and cheese. There never was in the Capitol any staff in any department with the whole-souled devotion to public duty that we had in the library. Finally, don't be scared; bad as it is, you will keep finding that it might have been worse. I have only read the next day's papers, but I know that when you get at it carefully you will unearth thousands of books that will be useful even if stained with fire and smoke, and that the loss, bad as it is, will not prove as total as reported. Thank heaven, the richest state has been educated to believe in its library so fully that no one for a moment will doubt its replacing it as rapidly as practicable in its new home. You have my heartfelt sympathy in the extra burden it has thrown on you, and if there is anything I can do or any of my personal library material that you can use, it is at your disposal.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) MELVIL DEWEY.

*Dr Dewey is a member of the Simplified spelling board and an ardent advocate of its teachings.

Secretary Utley's Word on Pasadena Meeting

The Pasadena conference this year bids fair to call forth one of the most brilliant programs ever presented to members of the American library association. Although in point of numbers the conference will probably not equal those recently held in the East and Middle-west, yet in enthusiasm and in interest, our third visit to the Pacific coast will undoubtedly be one of the most satisfactory gatherings ever held.

The Program committee have been exceptionally fortunate in securing talent of the first order, both in and out of the library profession. There will be fewer meetings this year than last, consequently fewer conflicts, so that members can attend a larger part of the program.

Mr Wyer, in his president's address, "What the community owes the library," will sound the keynote of the underlying theme—the library and the community—which runs through the general sessions and to a lesser degree those of the various sections and affiliated associations.

In our own library circles we have long been instructed and entertained by Mr Bostwick's bright, pithy and pointed papers, and everybody will be glad to see his name on our coming program. Mr Legler, who gives an illustrated talk on children's work, is rapidly reaching a national reputation, both as an authority on this phase of library development and also as a popular lecturer on this and other library topics.

Prof. Arthur H. Chamberlain, who comes as the accredited delegate of the National Education Association to speak on "Increasing the efficiency of the library as an educational factor," is professor in the Throop polytechnic institute of Pasadena and a prominent writer and lecturer on educational topics. Willard Huntington Wright, who gives an address at the first general session, has made a brilliant record as literary editor of the *Los Angeles Times*. Francis F. Browne, for over 30 years editor of *The Dial*, and more or less a Californian by adoption, will receive a warm welcome

from librarians who, scarcely without exception, regard *The Dial* as one of their workaday tools.

On Tuesday forenoon we shall have a special treat in an address by Dr Benjamin Ide Wheeler, the beloved president of the University of California. Dr Wheeler's work has been divided between the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts and he is equally at home in any quarter of the land. At this same session Dr J. A. B. Scherer, president of the Throop polytechnic institute, a younger man in the educational field, will also speak. Dr Scherer has won considerable reputation as a lecturer on the far Eastern question, for which he is ably equipped by five years of educational work in Japan.

The conference will end with a brilliant California program which takes the nature of a joint session of the A. L. A. and the California library association. This meeting will be addressed by the Governor of the state, the Hon. Hiram Johnson; by John Muir, the venerable forester, mountaineer, "The John Burroughs of the Pacific coast," who is known, admired and revered throughout the breadth of the land, and who is living to see his long-preached doctrine of conservation at last falling on heeding ears; by Luther Burbank, the plant wizard of Santa Rosa, the Edison of the botanical world; by Lincoln Steffens, the intrepid discloser of civic and municipal unrighteousness; and by Mary Hunter Austin, whose tales of the great Southwest have brought close home to her readers the mystery and mighty charm of the vast "land of little rain."

It is not our purpose here to call specific attention to the various topics of more or less technical nature which will also be presented and discussed, but suffice it to say that the Program committee and the chairmen and secretaries of sections and affiliated associations have done their utmost to call forth that which will not only furnish interest and instruction to those who are present, but will, when printed, form a valuable contribution to library literature.

GEORGE B. UTLEY.

Library Development in the Past 20 Years

The following answers have been received in response to the question, What, in your judgment, has been the most effective and desirable development in library extension in the past 20 years, and where have entered signs of weakness that call for more particular attention than has been given? Various types of libraries are represented by writers who have been active in the forefront of the development of their particular line of work during the past 20 years, and whose opinion, therefore, is worthy of attention. The subject calls for more extensive discussion than the limits of time and space permit at this time, but future presentations will remedy the matter.

What has been done

The distinctive library developments for the past 20 years seem to have been

1) *Structural*: the multiplication of buildings of all grades; the creation of certain buildings (and the projection of others) of notable architectural pretension, e. g., at Boston, at Chicago, at New York, at Washington (projected at Brooklyn, St Louis, Albany, etc.)—the expression which these give of the assured and central position which the library occupies and is to occupy, not merely in the academic establishment, but in the municipal system;

2) *Intensive*: indicated by the emphasis in the larger research libraries of service for the investigator; and, in all libraries, of a specific instructive service to the general reader as well as to the investigator; expressed also in concentration of organization, and therefore resources (as in New York City), and through specialization (as in Chicago), and through coöperation in bibliographic work (as in various undertakings of the A. L. A.); intensive in another sense in the tendency through library commissions and through the utilization of the county instead of the city as a unit, if not to centralize the administration at least to centralize the advisory and supervisory serv-

ice to libraries of a particular area; intensive also in a different direction in every effort of the so-called popular libraries to influence and direct the general reader, and, particularly, in connection with the schools, the young.

3) *Extensive*: the various projects by which the service of the library is becoming more and more affirmative and not merely responsive, and more and more diffused. Description and discussion of these will, I think, be found to have occupied the major part of the programs of library meetings and of the pages of library publications during the past 20 years.

And were not my own propinquity to this item a bar to proper perspective, I might add

4) *The nationalization of the Library of Congress*, with its familiar characteristics—structural, intensive and extensive.

You invite also some suggestion as to "signs of weakness in development": I would not perhaps use this term of two phenomena, one of which is not, I think, receiving adequate attention, and as to the other of which I feel personally a doubt. They are

1) The disinclination of any particular library to recognize in its own administration the limitations which, under the title of "specialization," it agrees should be recognized by libraries in general. Incident to this the inertia of particular libraries in taking benefit of the collections and bibliographic service available through the efforts of other libraries.

2) (The doubt) whether the zeal for "extension work" is not inducing libraries to activities outside of their proper province or feasible abilities; and incidentally tending to enfeeble the sense of responsibility on the part of other agencies, particularly the schools.

Speaking solely within the family (i. e., to the profession, and not to furnish ammunition to the cynical outsider), I have also a doubt as to whether the libraries, professing a constant amelioration of their standards (in the selection of books), are sufficiently practicing it. The question is of course of the lighter rather

than of the weighty literature, and of the recreative and cultural rather than the informing. I have believed and believe still that the popular libraries are still conceding too much to the demand for recreative literature of inferior literary worth, sufficiently available to the public in other forms; and that the old excuse for such a concession (i. e., the use of such books as "bait") no longer applies, and never applied to the class in the community whom it was most worth while to attract. [The experience of branch libraries in the more sordid districts of such a city as New York is sufficient evidence of this.]

HERBERT PUTNAM,
Library of Congress.

The chief features of library development since 1891 seem to me to be as follows: First, the extension of libraries into new territory, by means of the Carnegie and other benefactions; second, the extension of library work to cover new fields, such as organizing and reorganizing under state commissions, the development of traveling libraries, the care of libraries in state institutions, the increasing tendency to coöperate with societies and institutions for social betterment, the application of the library to rural problems, the appearance of the special library, the county library, etc., etc.; third, the growth in number of library schools and the adaptation of library training to circumstances by means of summer courses, apprentice classes, courses for teacher-librarians, etc. The difficulty of further adaptation is evident, at least until better financial support is found and a more scholarly ideal of librarianship can be inculcated. One is almost driven to the conclusion that the low opinion of librarianship and consequent low salaries are still the chief hindrances to progress.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.
Pratt Institute school of library science.

I have no hesitation in giving first place among "The most effective and desirable developments in library extension" in the last 20 years to the firm placing of library

work on a professional basis, so that expertness and trained skill are now well-nigh universally required of library workers, and the public generally, in their use of libraries, have the benefit of this trained efficiency.

As to "signs of weakness," the movement has the defects of its qualities in a tendency to too much reliance upon technicalities and systems, tending to weaken the emphasis upon real learning and bookishness, as elements in the library atmosphere.

W. I. FLETCHER,
Librarian of Amherst college.

Library extension and development during the past 20 years have been great and varied, but in that time many troublesome questions as to methods and details of library administration have been satisfactorily disposed of and relegated to a place where they loom less conspicuously on the library horizon.

Having set their houses in order, librarians have endeavored to enlarge and extend the fields of usefulness of their libraries. Herein lies one of the most important and worthy features of library development during the period in question. Existing libraries in large cities have reached out through branches, stations and traveling libraries to their remotest districts, and cities and towns without libraries have been encouraged by library commissions and organizers to establish them; and now, as in California, for example, a system is being developed with the State library as a center which aims to bring by means of county libraries and their ramifications, library privileges within the reach of even the most distant inhabitant on the frontier. New England town dwellers should bear in mind the vastness of a western county of which the actual area covered by incorporated towns may be insignificant. This great extension of library opportunities is certainly destined to be a very considerable feature in the education and enlightenment of the people.

Another feature of library development deserving of consideration is coöperation. Twenty years ago a central cataloging

agency was a dream, but under the able leadership of the Library of Congress, one that is now rapidly being realized. Union catalogs and cooperative lists of periodicals and other serial publications, in conjunction with the system of inter-library loans, enable the users of one library to avail themselves of the resources of other libraries. In some places, as in Chicago, we have seen libraries cooperate still further by allotting to each the particular field which it should undertake to cover. This is an arrangement which other libraries are likely to adopt in part as they get to the point where they can begin to specialize. Then the superiority of certain libraries in particular fields will be recognized and they will be left to cover those fields, while other libraries instead of duplicating will endeavor to make separate collections of their own in other departments of knowledge.

G. T. CLARK,

Leland Stanford university library.

It seems to me that the most effective and desirable development has been quantitative; that is, the reaching of a larger proportion of the people than ever before, and that this is the point to which special attention should still be given.

Naturally, I have noticed most the development in the reference use of books. Not merely, indeed not especially, in the public libraries, but far more in college and university libraries has this development taken place. That it means a much more profitable use of the knowledge stored in books I am sure. Its danger, which exists in all libraries, but more particularly in public libraries, is a tendency toward too great reliance on printed statements without sufficient consideration of the various conditions which affect their reliability.

C. W. ANDREWS,

The John Crerar library, Chicago.

Lines of development

1) The centralization of the National association by the establishment of headquarters and the organization for more permanence in policy and control.

2) Development of library associations on smaller units than the country.

3) Direct study of library needs of children and of the means to satisfy those needs without overwhelming the rights and convenience of adults.

4) Development of branch libraries.

5) Greater freedom of access to books themselves.

Needs for growth

1) Wider apprehension of the real field of the public library; that is, that its purpose and power lie primarily not in the added privilege to individuals, but in that its wide use is a safeguard to the community.

2) More scientific study of principles of effective management.

3) Less emphasis on buildings and more emphasis on choice, buying and, specially, on distribution of books.

4) More study of wholesome and liberal conditions and routine for staff.

5) More emphasis on team work in staff.

MRS. H. L. ELMENDORF,

Vice-director of Buffalo public library.

The facts to be explained are the general diffusion of libraries throughout the country and the improvement in library methods noticed everywhere. Local organizations, city, county and state, and organizations among different classes of library workers were just beginning to be established 20 years ago, but now are very numerous and help librarians to become acquainted with each other, and, with the journals which have also increased in number, have awakened an interest in the foundation of libraries and disseminated a knowledge of correct library methods and of proper spirit in management.

The first library commission was established in 1890, that of Massachusetts. Since that time many other states have established these commissions. They have done an immense work in awakening an interest in the establishment of libraries and in aiding in their foundation and management.

Twenty years ago there was the library school, established at Columbia university, which had been moved to the State

library at Albany. Since that time many other schools have been opened and the great educative influence of these schools in regard to library matters has been many times multiplied. The school at Albany, while it has attended as faithfully as before to library machinery, has always worked with an ever increasing earnestness to have students understand that machinery is a means only for advancing the higher purposes of libraries.

Most noticeable during the last 20 years is the greatly increasing attention to the wants of children showing itself in large places in the establishment of well administered children's rooms and everywhere in aiding the young both in and out of school.

Freer admission of users of libraries to the shelves was just beginning when the association met in California 20 years ago. Now it is general in so far as judicious discrimination allows.

Although the problem of coöperation in cataloging has not yet been solved, aid of the greatest importance has been rendered to many libraries by permission at a very moderate cost to use cards prepared for the Library of Congress.

It should be borne in mind that the improvements which have been mentioned are all developments from methods which had a good beginning 20 years ago. Libraries are now being conducted quietly and intelligently. The danger seems to me to be satisfaction with present attainments. Are we not attending too exclusively to perfecting details of library methods rather than seeking to initiate new plans or working for marked development? SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,

Worcester, Mass.

The most important and desirable development in library extension has been in work with children. Twenty years ago there was not such a thing as a children's room at a public library. Now there is scarcely a library which has not such a room set apart distinctively for children. Not only has this convenience been provided for segregating the young from the adult and so drawing them directly into the influence of the library, but special

attention has been paid to dealing with them in a manner to best promote their intellectual welfare.

Good movements that are taken up with enthusiasm are in danger of going beyond the proper mark. I think I see certain fads and fancies in process of being grafted on the movement, which, if persisted in and carried forward, will surely cause reaction. The children's department of the public library has no cause to make itself a kindergarten nor a creche. The library should not bend its entire energy and ingenuity to catering to the juvenile population. Give the elders a chance also.

That the library schools, a development of the last 20 years, have done a very useful work is not to be questioned. A disposition toward too much of a good thing makes one question whether library training has always been wisely handled. A committee of the A. L. A. charged with the duty of finding out the strength and weakness of library school courses being at work suggests that individual opinion may well be withheld pending investigation.

State commissions and their efforts to carry library advantages to rural districts, in my judgment, are not exceeded in value by any other library effort. The county library question, coupled with the rural mail delivery, seems to be the reasonable solution of the problem, but whatever the plan, there is sure to be means that shall give those who dwell in the country the advantages in respect to books which are enjoyed by the residents of the city.

HENRY M. UTLEY,
Detroit public library.

The most important library development in the last 20 years is the increase of coöperation with the schools, and especially the growth of the tendency, a growth which may be largely credited to librarians, on the part of school people to learn more about books in general, and especially about books for young people, with an accompanying increase of knowledge how best to use these books.

Next after the development of closer relations between libraries and schools,

perhaps the most important thing is the *A. L. A. Booklist*. Unfortunately this is published in such a form and under such a title that it does not appeal to the general public. Unfortunately, also, the administration of the A. L. A. has not seen fit to attempt to make it known to that public.

Again, perhaps we should say that the most important addition to library efficiency is the publication of cards by the Library of Congress. I look upon this not only as of great importance in itself, but as of still greater importance in the influence it has had and will have upon coöperation between libraries. In this latter respect the influence of the Library of Congress has only just begun to be felt.

Among recent important movements we certainly should name the tendency shown by libraries in recent years to recognize the value of their service to the publicist, the business man and the skilled workman. We shall see great developments in this direction.

Perhaps one of the lines along which the library movement has not developed wisely is that of branch libraries. I am inclined to think that the building of expensive library branches in large numbers in our great cities has tended to put off the day when the relations between libraries and schools will be as close as they may advantageously be. Instead of devoting our efforts to secure coöperation with schools to such an extent that in every schoolhouse in the land there may be a branch of the local public library, supplying the needs both of the pupils of the schools and of the adults of the neighborhood, we have attempted to keep the library an independent institution, with a large number of independent buildings. This, I fear, is an expensive mistake.

Another line along which our development has not been altogether wise is that of aid to readers, and especially aid given in reference work. Here we have been led to do too much, to take on too many of the functions of the guide and teacher.

J. C. DANA,

Free public library, Newark, N. J.

The New York State Library—Its Present Possessions

Library

Books. Total salvage is not likely to exceed 10,000 v., and, as many of these are odd volumes of sets, the net salvage worth cleaning and rebinding will be somewhat less. The books recovered were reference books and periodicals from the general reading room, New York and New England history, early American poetry, with a few volumes of genealogy and medicine. Several hundred books in the hands of borrowers will be returned. The Law library is a total loss.

Manuscripts. The archivist estimates that one-tenth of the 300,000 manuscripts have been saved, including perhaps one-third of the most valuable material. Twelve or 13 v. were saved out of 23 of the Dutch records which Mr van Laer is engaged in translating. Nearly 100 v. of colonial and state records, several volumes of the Sir William Johnson, the Tompkins and Clinton manuscripts, all the 1812, a part of the Revolutionary records, and several hundred volumes of miscellaneous papers were also recovered.

Treasures. About 50 manuscripts, books and relics which were deposited in a safe in the offices of the Commissioner of education, were saved. They include all the Washington manuscripts and relics, the first draft of the Emancipation proclamation, the collection of autographs of the signers of the Declaration of independence, Duke's Laws 1674, Dongan's Laws 1684, two copies of Bradford's Laws 1694 (a book of excessive rarity), the royal charter covering what is now the State of New York, the minutes of the Poughkeepsie convention at which New York state ratified the Constitution of the United States, and the original draft of the ratification document 1788; the Andre papers, 13 in number, which were taken from the boots of the unfortunate major when he was captured; the original engrossed copies of all of the constitutions of the state; the General Worth swords, and the larger part of the coin collections.

Library school

Not a vestige remains of all the records, samples, books, publications and appliances. "Total loss" tells the story.

The fire has brought out innumerable expressions of interest, sympathy and good-will from all parts of the country, for which we are deeply grateful and which have done much to give us new zeal in the work of restoration and construction now before us. We are particularly touched by the splendid demonstration of affection and loyalty that have been made to the Library school by its former students and alumni, shown not only in prompt and appreciative messages, but in immediate, spontaneous and generous gifts of notes, samples, bibliographies, text-books and files of library periodicals. Some of these gifts represent the best collections ever made by library students, the accumulations of years of painstaking labor, and no one but the trained librarian can know how real a sacrifice has been involved in the gifts. With the material thus supplied, the faculty have been enabled quickly to restore the missing tools and to continue their regular courses almost without interruption.

The mailing list of the bulletin, *New York Libraries*, was destroyed, and it will be necessary for subscribers to send name and period for which they have paid in order to receive their bulletins.

Division of educational extension

About 40,000 books of the traveling libraries collection were in use in the state, and will, of course, be returned, though no records remain as to where these books are now loaned; 60,000 v. of the traveling library collection were destroyed, together with the official reports for 20 years of all libraries under Regents' supervision. The correspondence files and records of the division, all its mailing lists and publications were lost.

In all, about 450,000 v., 270,000 manuscripts, 300,000 pamphlets, were burned. There remains, besides what is noted above, a stock of duplicates estimated at close to 200,000 v., which may yield 50,000 to 60,000 different volumes of a sort

which, while not of great rarity, are yet useful and very essential to the new library.

The Universal catalog, our principal general bibliographic tool, combining the card catalogs of the Library of Congress, the John Crerar library of Chicago, the British museum, and thousands of other miscellaneous cards; the general card catalog of the library, the work of 20 years, containing nearly a million cards; the catalog of book notes and reviews; the card index to legislation of the past 15 years; the only accurate and minute index in existence to the public documents of the state; the highly specialized, classified collection of material on all subjects of legislation: all these were destroyed.

J. I. WYER, JR.

Recent Library Legislation

The new California free library law

The California legislature has recently passed a new county free library law, repealing the act of 1909. The new law, which was introduced by H. S. Benedict of Los Angeles, is so framed as to correct the defects, difficulties for organization, and points of difference presented in the old law. The main points of the new law are as follows:

1. The supervisors of any county may establish a county free library for that part of such county lying outside of incorporated cities and towns maintaining free public libraries, and for all such additional portions of such county as may elect to become a part of, or to participate in, such county free library system.
2. Any incorporated city or town maintaining a free public library may, by action of its city council, become a part of the county free library system.
3. Any incorporated city or town may contract with the county free library for such service as it may desire.
4. Counties may contract with each other for joint library service.
5. A board of library examiners is created, composed of the state librarian, the librarian of the San Francisco public library, and the librarian of the Los An-

geles public library, to certificate applicants for the position of county librarian.

6. Maximum power in the management of the county free library is given to the librarian.

7. A tax levy not to exceed 10 cents on \$100 may be made to support the county free library.

8. If a county does not wish to establish a library of its own, an alternative method is offered by means of a contract which may be entered into by the board of supervisors with any city library, the latter agreeing to extend its service to the county.

Up to the present time the work of organizing county free libraries has been carried on under the contract plan of the old law, and 12 counties have established the system, appropriating from \$1200 to \$12,000 a year to carry on the work.

The Legislature of 1911, by resolution, appointed a committee consisting of the State library trustees and the Justices of the District Court of Appeal, Third district, to investigate the need of a building for the library and the courts and to report its findings to the governor prior to the legislative session of 1913.

Indiana library legislation

The most important legislation on library matters was that providing for a commission to "formulate plans for the celebration of the centennial of the admission of Indiana into the Union by the erection of a state building, and its dedication in 1916, to be known as the Indiana educational building. The plan of such building shall provide for the proper housing of the State library and museum, Public library commission, and the educational and scientific offices of the state." The commission is to be known as the Indiana centennial commission. It consists of five members, one of whom is the state librarian. A report is to be made to the next General assembly and if the plans are approved and the necessary appropriations made, the commission will proceed to purchase ground and construct the proposed building.

A very desirable feature of the bill is that the commission is authorized to en-

ter into tentative agreements with the Indianapolis park commissioners and Marion county authorities, to the end that the city, the county and the state shall all coöperate in the purchase and care of the necessary ground.

The members of the Centennial commission are: Demarchus C. Brown, State librarian; Charles W. Fairbanks, Indianapolis; Charles L. Jewett, New Albany; Frank M. Kistler, Logansport, and Joseph M. Cravens, Madison.

The law establishing the Legislative reference department of the State library was amended so as to broaden the scope of the legislative reference work. The department is now authorized to collect material on municipal subjects and to furnish such material to city and town officers on request. It is also authorized to coöperate with the state educational institutions in any manner approved by the State librarian and the State library board. The salary of the Legislative reference librarian, which, heretofore, has been fixed by statute, is, by the amendment, left to the State librarian and the State library board.

An appropriation of \$100,000 was made for a library building at Purdue university; the annual appropriation of the Library commission was increased from \$7000 to \$10,000; a few thousand dollars were added to the appropriation of the Supreme court law library, and some slight increases were made in the appropriations for the State library. Several minor changes, approved by the Indiana library association, and the Indiana library trustees' association, were made in the public library laws.

Two bills authorizing the establishment of a library school failed to pass. One provided for a library school to be under the control of the Public library commission, which was to be increased from three to five members. The other provided for the appointment by the governor of a library school board of five members, the establishment of the school in Indianapolis in connection with the Technical institute, and the appropriation of \$5000 for maintenance. The bills

were advocated by the Indiana library school, of which Merica Hoagland is director. They were not favored by the library associations, nor by the state departments interested in library affairs.

Library legislation in Oregon

At the session of the legislature for 1911 the following library bills were passed:

A new law, providing that the counties containing a population of 50,000 inhabitants, or more, may levy a tax not to exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills for a public library building fund and the tax may be divided and levied in two successive years. The building shall be erected at the county seat. This act would at present apply only to Multnomah county, in which the city of Portland is located.

The county library law was amended by striking out the population limit, which had previously made it apply to Multnomah county only, and by raising the maintenance tax from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 mill. It is not probable that any other county in the state will for some years take advantage of this law, as the counties are so large and so thinly populated, but Oregon now has an excellent county library law ready for use whenever the conditions make it desirable.

The Library commission law was amended by changing the annual appropriation from \$6000 to \$9000. There was also passed a law making the State treasurer custodian of the private funds of the commission, these funds being quite large, as the commission handles all of the school library money of the state.

Another law provides that county courts may appropriate \$200 from the general fund of the county for the purpose of establishing farm libraries at various points in the counties in connection with established libraries, commercial clubs, or other public institutions; the list of books from which selections are made to be approved by the Oregon agricultural college.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars was appropriated for the construction and furnishing of a modern

fireproof library and museum building for the University of Oregon; \$15,000 was allowed for books, magazines and binding for the Oregon agricultural college for the biennial period. There is a movement to call the referendum upon the last two measures, as they have been included in the list of bills for which a referendum petition is being circulated. No bill without an emergency clause becomes a law in Oregon until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature, and no one knows which bills will finally be included in the statutes.

Nebraska

The legislature has put the supervision of the libraries in the state institutions in the hands of the commission and has made an appropriation of \$2500 a year for the work. Florence Waugh of Lincoln, formerly children's librarian in the Lincoln city library, has been appointed by the commission as institution librarian. This is the first recognition of the library as an agent in reformatory work in the state institutions of Nebraska.

An Examination of Librarians

An examination open to all applicants for the position of county librarian in California under the new county free library law will be held at the Hotel Maryland, Pasadena, on Monday, May 22, 1911, at 2 p. m. Mary L. Sutliff will conduct the examination. Further information may be had from the president, State library, Sacramento.

J. L. GILLIS, President,
W. R. WATSON, Secretary,
PURD B. WRIGHT,
Board of library examiners.

The most important conclusion I have arrived at in regard to the method of inducing high school boys and girls to read widely is that the best method is that of suggestion as opposed to that of prescription. Prescribe a book and you have taken the first step toward inducing a disregard of it; suggest one, and the pupil's curiosity may lead him to look it up.
—Percival Chubb.

A Window Display

A novel but effective plan of publicity was that followed by the St Joseph (Mo.) public library recently. Permission to use a large window in a prominent building on a corner facing on two busy streets was given the library. There were on display a special collection of books and all the publications of the library, and scattered among them were catchy, salient placards. These were changed every other day, and the exhibit lasted over two weeks.

Some of the placards read like this:

Do you know that the library is a free institution, and that it is supported entirely by the taxpayers of St Joseph? More than 9000 people are enrolled as regular patrons of the library. Are you? If not, is it our fault—or yours? Are you striving as hard to make use of your opportunities as we are in making them known to you?

Facts. Thousands of St Joseph people make use of the Public library. These patrons far outnumber the attendance of any university in the country. Last year each book in the library was used on an average of more than four times. The number of books loaned for home reading would allow more than 2½ books for each man, woman and child in the city, and these books actually went into nearly one-half the homes.

More facts. The last annual apportionment of general funds for the city departments allowed \$105,970 for the Police department, \$21,000 for the Public library. It is our aim to have the best public library of the United States in St Joseph. Grand Rapids appropriates annually \$40,000 for its public library. Springfield, Mass., appropriates annually over \$56,000 for its library. See?

Why? The managers of this building have been very kind to us. All progressive institutions in this city are glad to aid the public library. Why? The public library is the greatest institution in the city for the continuous education of the adult, and is second only to the public schools in the education of the children of the city.

New ideas? The library is a storehouse for them. It will furnish you new ideas of your business, trade, profession, home, recreation, hobby. Of course you have a hobby. Try the library on it. There are practical ideas there for your every-day work, too.

The scheme received plenty of notice in the newspapers, and attracted much attention from passers-by. It could be called a distinct success, as it brought a

large number of new applicants to the library and innumerable special calls.

A course-in-reading slip has been prepared by the library and distributed very widely to the working people in all lines in the town.

Membership in A. L. A.

Secretary Utley has sent out a letter to librarians from which the following is an extract:

We wish also heartily to recommend that you join the American library association if you have not already done so. As a member you will receive the bi-monthly *Bulletin*, about 400 pages a year of valuable library information. One number contains the papers, addresses and committee reports delivered at the annual conferences. If it so happens that you cannot often attend the annual conference you need all the more to have the conference come to you. Another number contains a list of all the officers and members of the association. Membership for individuals, \$2 a year (initiation fee, \$1 additional); membership in the name of the library, \$5 a year, which entitles the library also to receive monthly the A. L. A. *Booklist*, which no library can afford to be without.

Membership in the national association lends dignity to a library and a feeling of mutual helpfulness and of being a part of a great system that no librarian ought to fail to secure.

Meeting of New York State Library Association

The Executive committee of the New York state library association has decided to hold the annual meeting for 1911 in New York city in the week beginning September 25. President Hill says: "The state association has never met by itself in New York city, and we have concluded that it was about time to give the up-state people a chance to enjoy the beauties of New York city as we have for so many years enjoyed the country." Librarians generally are invited to attend the meeting.

Plan of the Picture Work**The public library of the District of
Columbia****Source:**

Clippings from worn-out books,
magazines, railroad folders, etc.
Purchase.
Gift.

Arrangement:

Clippings placed in manila envelopes
in vertical filing cabinets and
mounted when called for.

Envelopes filed alphabetically under:

Portraits, authors and musicians
Portraits, miscellaneous
Geography and history
U. S. Geography
Animals
Birds
Miscellaneous:
Forestry
Industries
Inventors
Transportation, etc.

Envelopes filed chronologically under:

U. S. History
Periods
Aborigines
Explorers
Colonial settlements
Revolution
Pioneers
War of 1812
Later pioneers
War with Mexico
Spanish War

Fine Arts arranged alphabetically under:

School of painting
American
English
Flemish
French
German
Italian
Bolognese
Ferrarese
Florentine
Lombard
Naturalist
Paduan
Roman
Sienese
Umbrian

**Sculpture arranged alphabetically under
country:**

American
English
French
Greek
Italian
Roman

Circulation:

Pictures sent out in sets of 20 and may
be kept seven days.

Reserve slips with blanks for name,
address, subject and date desired,
may be filed at the library, or pic-
tures may be had immediately upon
application.

Carbon duplicate circulation slips are
made, one is sent with the pictures,
the other is filed under date due at
the library. When pictures are re-
turned both slips are destroyed, after
note of number of pictures is made
on the statistic sheet.

Post-card notices are sent when re-
serves are ready.

Pictures are sent out in manila en-
velopes, 10 inches by 12 inches.

Method of mounting:

Cardboard mounts, gray or brown,
9½ inches by 10½ inches.

Pictures tipped at corners so that they
may be removed if mount is injured.

Several related pictures may be placed
on one mount.

Framed pictures:

Frames with removable backs are
loaned to teachers, to be kept six
months.

Pictures may be changed as often as
desired.

Catalog:

Simple arrangement makes a catalog
unnecessary, except in Fine Arts,
which are indexed by card system,
indicating date and school of artist.

No fines are charged. Pictures may be
renewed for another seven days if de-
sired.

Used by:

Teachers
Public and private schools
Sunday schools
Newspapers

Study clubs
Architecture
Fine Arts
Manners and customs
History
Literature
Library
Bulletins
Exhibits

Circulation for 1908-1909, 42,840 mounts.
Estimated circulation for 1909-1910, 55,000 mounts.

Library of Congress, 1909-1910

The several important activities of our national library make the librarian's annual report interesting and instructive reading, both as regards administration and respecting more specialized branches of library work. Every new report makes valuable reading to those who follow the events. Scarcely has a development like that of the Library of Congress ever been paralleled in the history of either modern or older library activity.

Nothing illustrates the character of this development better than the résumé of the work of the catalog division offered on the occasion of Mr Hanson's departure for another field of duties:

Mr Hanson was placed in charge of our catalog division when the collections were moved from the capitol. They then comprised over 800,000 v. of printed matter, as well as the manuscripts, maps, music and prints, the care of which fell upon other divisions. Of the printed books there was not merely no catalog by subject, but none by author that could be made fully available to the public or continued in its existing form, since the one that existed was in script, on cards varying from the present standard size. There was no shelf list; and the only classification of the books upon the shelves was the "Baconian," adopted early in the nineteenth century, which provided for but 44 main groups (chapters).

It was the task of Mr Hanson's division to determine the principle, method and form of a new, comprehensive catalog, author and subject, to construct this, and apply it to the existing collection and incoming accessions; to determine, construct and similarly apply a new, elastic, modern system of classification with all the records incidental thereto; and, at the outset, to handle in addition all the business of ordering, receiving and accession-

ing the incoming material. For this he had a force of but a dozen persons.

As is well known, the force was largely increased, as time went on, yet the solution of the problem undoubtedly would, under different conditions, have called for many years of continuous experiment and work. In the meantime, the card section developed, with its additional demands on painstaking service and its increase of bulk, as well as high quality of work.

The financial statement covering appropriations and expenditures of the library proper and of the copyright division, shows that a little less than one-half million dollars suffices for the present status of the library's service.

The total contents of the library at the close of the fiscal year was 1,793,158 books and pamphlets, a gain of 90,473 over the previous year. Maps and charts numbered 118,165 pieces, music 517,806 volumes and pieces, prints 320,251 pieces. The manuscript division shows an especially gratifying increase by gifts.

Among collections deposited with the library by special arrangement must be mentioned the John Boyd Thacher collection of incunabula, which represents one of the four specialties upon which the collector lavished his efforts as a collector and bibliographer (the other three being autographs, Columbiana, and the French Revolution). These efforts were directed to the acquisition of many examples of dated issues of the presses prior to the year 1500 in Europe; and of the earliest issues of the press of Mexico, Canada, and some of the other regions of the Western Hemisphere. The European Incunabula alone total 928 v.—the one of earliest date being a Durandus (Fust and Schöffer) of 1459—and represent over 500 presses.

Although the 15th century issues constitute, both in numbers and intrinsic importance, the major portion of the deposit, certain notable groups of related material accompanied them. Among these were numerous early products of the sixteenth century presses as well as a considerable collection of works on the history of printing, and also Mr Thacher's general bibliographical apparatus. His interest in the discovery of America is evidenced (in the deposit) by his printed material relating to Columbus and the early explorations and early cartography, including some 34 editions of Ptolemy. These groups aggregate upward of 800 v.

The manuscript division reports as its most important accession the volumes of Madison

papers heretofore owned by the Chicago Historical Society, the title to which has now passed to the United States. These are the greater part of the papers which were bought by the late J. C. McGuire of Washington, from John Payne Todd, Mrs Madison's son by her first husband, and constitute the third and only remaining group of papers left by Madison not hitherto in the government's possession, the two other groups being those which the government bought from Mrs Madison in 1837 and 1848. After Mr McGuire's death the papers were offered to the government by his estate, but at that time no funds could be found available for their purchase, and they were, accordingly, sold at auction in 1892, eleven volumes of them passing into the hands of an autograph dealer in New York, from whom they were bought for the Chicago Historical Society by the late Marshall Field—a timely act of generosity on his part, which probably saved them from dispersion among private collections and consequent loss to historical science.

In addition, several other collections, such as the Polk papers, the Eustis and Andrew Stevenson collections, and a number of other aggregations, all important for historical study, were added.

Government, state and municipal documents have been systematically collected, and present a satisfactory status. The music division enumerates a large number of carefully selected additions of excellent character.

Not the least interesting portion of the volume is the special report of the card section. Cards for about 45,000 different titles were added during the year, and about 440,000 titles are now included in the general stock. There are 48 depository libraries. The list of subscribers to printed cards (Appendix V) is very instructive, showing the wide and varied use of the cards. Another appendix contains a list of present employees appointed since 1899, and giving qualifications and character of employment.

This scant and insufficient extract will fulfill its purpose if it helps to bring this report within the field of observation of colleagues. Its 305 pages are full of information to everyone that shares in the development of our profession and of the institutions we serve.

B.

Atlantic City Library Meeting

II.

New Jersey program

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey library associations, held March 9-11 at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J., is generally conceded to have been one of their most successful meetings. The attendance was large, the weather good, and the program excellent. Following the custom of the past two years, New Jersey held two special sessions previous to the general ones.

On Thursday evening, the first of these special sessions, Miss Bacon of the Newark library presided most ably at an author symposium. Miss Bacon's wide knowledge of literature and her critical ability made her introductory remarks illuminating and humorous, and aroused a keen interest in the papers which were to follow.

William H. Clemons of the Princeton university library presented his subject, Dr Crothers, remarkably well. Miss Scholl of the Montclair library took Mr Barrie as her author, and Miss Abbott of the Atlantic City library added to a general appreciation of Arthur Gilman many personal recollections of the days when he used her library freely. The value of Clifton Johnson (whom Miss Bacon introduced as the Hamilton Wright Mabie of travel) as a weaner away from the fiction habit was comprehensively given by Miss White of the Passaic library. Mr George of Elizabeth characterized Jesse Lynch Williams as an epigrammatic satirist, praised his fearlessness and optimism, and dwelt upon his "Married life of the Frederic Carrolls" as a sane presentation of present-day conditions. The object of these papers was to present a comparative and critical review of the authors chosen with special reference to public library use.

Friday morning, Florence Lattimore of the Department of child-helping, Russell Sage Foundation, talked on "Some phases of the relation of libraries to

social work." She accorded very generous praise to the Cleveland and Pittsburgh public libraries with which she had come in contact. Her idea of a librarian who is fulfilling his or her mission is one who sees in the people who come and go unlimited possibilities for social work. The old idea of material relief has taken a subordinate place, while the dominating idea and aim now is to unearth those conditions which make this relief necessary. The library can be, and frequently is, the headquarters of a particular kind of social work, particularly among the children. This fact is so well recognized by the Russell Sage Foundation, and especially by the Department of child-helping, that in their card index of organizations aiding in social relief are the names of those libraries doing efficient children's work. The aloofness of the missionary spirit should be changed for one of brotherly helpfulness, the giving out of one's personality to those less favored, the improvement of thinking conditions, and, therefore, the improvement of living conditions, which is the great object of the Russell Sage Foundation, and the cleaning out the "alleys of the soul" as effectively as the alleys of the cities. The comfortable feeling of some years ago that we should help only those who come to us and be content, can no longer be justified. It is those who do not know of the privileges that await them, who need most to be reached. To this end Miss Lattimore made a strong plea for persistent, aggressive work among the delinquent, dependent class; for home libraries, the good of which she has seen demonstrated in her visiting; the story-hour, which she has heard repeated in homes of poverty by the most able of the little ones, perhaps in the mother tongue, while the rest of the family ate or worked; for books in reform schools; and for the furtherance of legislation regulating the working hours of men, women and children. How can the working class use the libraries that are so boastfully called "free to the people,"

she asked, when they have no free hours in which to use them?

It was most fitting that Dr Frank P. Hill of Brooklyn, who was so closely identified with the New Jersey association in the early years of its history and has remained its warm friend ever since, and J. C. Dana of Newark, who has done so much for library interests in the state, should have been in the chair during the business meeting which followed. The questions of membership, finances, an advisory board to assist the executive committee, local meetings for those librarians who are unable to attend regular meetings, establishment of a central file of lists, the amount of time a librarian can consistently give to work outside her administrative duties, the advisability of a state publication, and affiliation with the A. L. A., were some of the topics presented. The wide-awake interest with which these questions were discussed proves the delightful harmony of interests and the vitality of the New Jersey association and speaks for a future of service.

The Newark public library prepared and distributed an eight-page pamphlet of interest and value, called "Where to write," giving addresses of organizations for civic and social betterment which issue some kind of literature. The list was supplemented by a display, mostly in pamphlet form, of the material sent in response to a letter from the Newark public library to these various organizations asking for specimen publications. The interest and effectiveness of the exhibit was further enhanced by a vertical file of this same material solving the problem of its care in the library. Mr Dana set forth the advantage of this particular system of pamphlet filing by speaking of the quickness of access, the ease with which material of ephemeral value may be weeded out, and the readiness with which newspaper clippings may be added.

John A. Campbell, president of the Trenton library board, presided Friday evening. James I. Wyer read his paper, "Outside the walls," and Dr Nathaniel

Schmidt, professor of Semitic languages and literatures, Cornell university, spoke on "Ibsen." It was a program of unusual merit.

On Saturday evening Hamilton Holt, editor of the *Independent*, was the New Jersey speaker. In his talk on "Commercialism and journalism" he contrasted the old type of independent editor with the new one, who is of necessity influenced in large or small degree by the commercialism of the day. He spoke of the controlling power of advertising interests and of the ubiquitous press agent and the many other agencies tending to limit the power of independent action on the part of the editor. It was a delightfully informing, humorous presentation.

A Rare Treat in New Jersey

The New Jersey public library commission will hold an Institute of library science at Asbury Park, N. J., May 1-6. The course is open to librarians-in-charge and to library assistants.

The morning programs include the following lectures:

Psychological aspects of reading for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18, by G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark university.

Social forces in children's literature, by Montrose J. Moses.

The art of printing and social progress, by Dr J. P. Lichtenberger, professor of Sociology in the University of Pennsylvania.

Literary values, by Hamilton W. Mabie. This lecture will include a discussion of the following questions: The responsibility of the library to the community on the question of morals; How far can we go in offering inferior books? What constitutes a real book?

Shakespeare, by Dr Nathaniel Schmidt, professor of Semitic languages and literatures in Cornell university.

An illustrated lecture on Child welfare work, by E. H. Anderson, assistant director of the New York public library.

In the afternoons there will be lectures and round-table discussions on Book-buying by Dr Frank P. Hill, director of the Brooklyn public library; Publishers, by Adam Strohm, librarian of the Trenton public library; Book-ordering, by F. W. Jenkins, of Scribner's; Cataloging, by and board of trustees in the state should make an effort to benefit by.

Miss Hitchler, head of the cataloging department, Brooklyn public library; Children's work, by Annie Carroll Moore, supervisor of children's work in the New York public library; Government documents, their care and the material to be found in them, by Miss Donnelly, director of the Drexel institute library and library school, and Adelaide R. Hasse, in charge of government document work in the New York public library; Book-selection, by Arthur L. Bailey, of the Wilmington institute free library, and Reference work, by W. P. Cutter, librarian of the Technical library of the United engineering societies of New York City. Besides these, there will be a lecture on Bookbinding by Cedric Chivers, whose binderies in Brooklyn, N. Y., and Bath, England, are famous, and one on Bookmending by Miss Murray, who is in charge of that work in the New York public library. Both Mr Chivers and Miss Murray will illustrate their lectures by exhibits of books and leathers which will be left on display for the entire week. Other exhibits permanent during the institute will be a model children's room furnished by the Library Bureau, and containing, from other sources, picture bulletins, picture books, comparative editions of children's books, etc.; an exhibit of magazine binders, good and bad; all kinds of library supplies; loan collections of books and supplementary pictures; a series of cuts showing the evolution of an illustration, loaned by Scribner's; photograph collections in use in various libraries; "The physical book," loaned by the Newark public library; various aids to librarians in the way of regular and occasional publications, and a demonstration of economic book-buying.

The arrangement of a program of such unusual merit and the gathering of these exhibits has necessitated a great outlay of time and money on the part of the commission. All this has been cheerfully undertaken in the interests of the libraries in the state, and it is hoped they will show their appreciation by regular attendance. It is an opportunity which is unusual and one which every librarian

A Summer Library Conference

For the summer of 1911 the Wisconsin library commission announces a library conference of two weeks. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the many and varied problems of library administration that confront every library in the state. Among the phases of library work considered will be included library extension, publicity methods, municipal reference and the place of the library in all social and civic movements. New aspects of the old questions that are always with us will receive attention. Problems of administration, such as the library budget, library appropriations, salaries, hours of opening, Sunday opening, loan-desk methods, binding and mending, and the care of books on the shelves, will be discussed. Work with children in all its phases, embracing administration of children's rooms, their hours of opening, evening use of the children's room, work with schools and the story-hour will hold an important place in the conference. Finally, the critical study and selection of books and periodicals, which is, after all, the most vital library problem, will be given a prominent place. Throughout the conference the significant relation of the library to the community and its true place in the civic plan will be emphasized.

For 16 years the Wisconsin commission has conducted a summer school course of technical training for library workers. The course, limited to six or eight weeks, has been devoted primarily to the technical side of library routine, including only such brief discussion of the topics mentioned above as the time of a brief session permitted. It is now found that after these 16 opportunities the majority of the librarians and assistants in the state have profited by this technical instruction, and that the time has come for changing the emphasis from technique to the broader phases of library work.

The two weeks' conference will probably be substituted for the technical course for this season only; it is likely

that the usual summer session of six weeks will be resumed in 1912.

The conference will be held in Madison in July. Fuller announcements of the program and dates will be issued shortly, giving the detailed schedules for lectures, round tables and speakers and stating what fees will be charged and estimating expenses. The fees will be nominal.

The conference will be held during the summer session of the University of Wisconsin. The lectures of the library course will be so arranged that all may avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the university sessions of hearing men noted in other lines of work. The quarters of the Wisconsin library school will be used for the meetings and its equipment will be available for inspection and study.

Leaders in new library movements will be engaged to give lectures and lead discussions. All who attend are invited to bring their own problems for round table discussion. An effort will be made to make the conference suggestive, stimulating and helpful in every way.

The conferences will be open to all library workers, whether librarians, assistants or apprentices, and to trustees and interested citizens. While this conference is held primarily to aid Wisconsin librarians in their work in Wisconsin libraries, workers from other states will be welcome.

Massachusetts Meeting

The next meeting of the Massachusetts library club will be held in Gloucester, Mass. This is the annual meeting of the club and will be a two days' session, June 15-16. The headquarters will be at Hawthorne inn, East Gloucester. The committee is preparing an interesting program, details of which will be announced later. Members of library clubs in adjoining states are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Two interesting addresses are assured in those promised by Dr Eva March Tappan and James B. Connolly.

Ido, the New International Language

[Pamphlets and further information on Ido may be obtained upon receipt of a 2-cent stamp from the author of this article, O. H. Mayer, 1716 La Salle Avenue, Chicago.]

III.

Iel, chiel, kiam, neniam, tiom, kiom, kial, tial . . . There are 45 such words as the foregoing in Esperanto, and they occur at the rate of two to every line! No linguist knows them, and no memory can retain their meanings without long drill and a considerable effort. The corresponding Ido words explain themselves: *en ula maniero, per omna manieri, kande, nultempe, tanto, quanto, pro quo, pro to* (this last expression, meaning "therefore," occurs even bodily in the rather remote Bohemian language—so felicitously have the Ido words been selected, from the international point of view, not only from that of the Latin scholar). The 45 "correlative" words of Esperanto completely upset the principle of internationality; they rest on a different principle—that of *apriority*, which is now hardly any longer considered seriously as a sound foundation for an artificial language. (It may, however, be mentioned, in passing, that occasionally there still appears a project of some so-called "philosophical" language; a very recent attempt, called *Ro*, by Mr E. P. Foster, a Cincinnati author, gives even the following fantastic nomenclature: *d . . .* "spacial relations;" *de* "surface;" *deb* "surface of the earth;" *Deba*, "Asia;" *Debca*, "Siberia;" *Debda*, "Japan;" *Debfa*, "China;" *Debka*, "Korea;" *Debkab*, *Debkac*, etc., "the first, second province of Korea;" *Debkaba*, *Debkabe*, etc., "the first, second town in the first province of Korea," etc. For a detailed criticism of these impractical and scientifically worthless projects see the first part of Couturat & Leau's comprehensive work, "Histoire de la langue internationale," Paris, Hachette, 10 francs.)

Add to the above Esperanto words such inflections as they are apt to carry—for instance, in the accusative plural, where there is a combination *chiujn tiujn*

kiujn, "all those who;" Ido, *omna ti qui*—and we have forms that are not only extremely ungainly for the eye and ear, but even absolutely unpronounceable for all untrained tongues—for instance, for the 130 million persons of English speech.

This leads us to a consideration of the phonetics of a correctly constructed international language. There is no room here for diphthongs—at least not when used in such abundance as in Esperanto, where they are crowded together at the ends of the words, to mark the plural, and in many other instances (see the comparative Ido and Espto. text in the March number of *Public Libraries!*). There is no room, either, for such an excessive use of sibilants as Espto. indulges in (for instances: *chu chiuj cheestis?* "Were all present?" Ido says: *kad omni asistis?*). The vowels should be the five continental European ones, *a e i o u*, with an average value, discarding the distinction of close and open (here Espto. is right, and Ido has followed it), and the words should terminate freely in vowels or liquid consonants, avoiding, at all events, double consonants. Harsh combinations, like *sts*, *shtr*, *bsts*, *kts* (which occur frequently in Espto., the first two even at the beginning of words), should be simplified. On the other hand, it is impossible to avoid all consonants that might cause trouble to one or the other nation; thus the voiced consonants, *b d g z*, cannot be avoided, although many Germans confound them with the voiceless sounds, *p t k s*; *r* and *l* cannot be excluded, although there are different ways of pronouncing them in different languages and dialects, etc. *Internationality of sound* may be summed up in these words: *utmost simplicity and frequent use of the vowels; moderate use and even distribution of the consonants.*

(To be continued.)

It is announced that the author of "John the Unafraid" is Wm. E. Mason of Chicago, late United States senator from Illinois. The little book was published about a year ago.

Interesting things in Print

Part III, the Business branch, in the series of Modern American library economy, as illustrated by the Newark (N. J.) public library, has been issued.

"Librarianship an uncrowded calling" is the attention-attracting title of a pamphlet issued by the New York state education department. It is made up of the expression of opinion by those in a position to have competent judgment in the matter and is in general a plea used to interest strong men and women, particularly men, in library work as a profession.

Technical libraries will find much valuable information in a pamphlet, prepared for the Lugano conference of the International association for labor legislation, on "Continuous industries; an attempt at an international comparison," by Thomas Schlytter of Kristiania, Norway.

It might be stated, in passing, that there is food for thought in the contents relating to some of the trades in the United States.

An article on the Paris subway system, with special reference to franchise terms and conditions, written by Robert H. Whitten, librarian-statistician of the New York public service commission, First district, which appeared in *Engineering News*, Jan. 19, 1911, has been reprinted as a "separate." The article represents a prodigious amount of investigation to the layman, but is of a piece with Dr Whittens' usual presentations.

The library resources of New York city and their increase are discussed in the current issue of the *Columbia University Quarterly*. Statistics dealing with the 98 libraries in New York, Brooklyn and Newark are given. Together they contain nearly 5,500,000 v. Tables showing the character of the different collections valuable to investigators are also given.

Reference is also made to the increased popularity of societies and private institutions in admitting the public to their collections.

The assertion that the names of some of the most widely read magazines are unknown to librarians, and that, consequently, "to know what the people are reading we must go outside the walls of our libraries," might be lightly dismissed if it did not come from the director of the New York state library and the president of the American Library Association. People read newspapers, magazines and books, he says, in this order, and, as the attitude of the library toward the first of these is increasingly inhospitable, there looms up a gulf between the librarian and those for whom he is supposed to exist. How wide this is may be inferred from the further revelation that it is not books "of the dubious literary aristocracy" of the best sellers, but of those classic names, Mary J. Holmes, E. P. Roe, Ann S. Stephens and Marion Harland, with their sales mounting into the millions, that are the really popular productions. "The works of these authors do not appear in the American Library Association catalog, nor in any self-respecting library's best books list, yet they are unimpeachable in morals, have undoubted earnestness and sincerity and many touches of real idealism." The solution proposed is that the librarian be a "mixer," getting through his office work expeditiously and then going out to meet, so far as he can, every one in his city, accepting every opportunity, public and private, to raise the literary tone in his territory. That education is the only way to higher levels is the lesson of the fact that the very best sellers are not vicious, but crude.—*New York Evening Post*.

Senate document No. 7 is a letter from the Librarian of Congress transmitting special report relative to legislative reference bureaus. Several bills looking to the establishment of a legislative reference bureau in Washington make it fitting that the great national library should take cognizance of the same.

Document No. 7 presents 18 points relating to the matter and covers thoroughly the aims of the various bodies, the work under the name of legislative reference bureaus, the review of the work

they have accomplished, the publications and general scope of their endeavor. The text of the bills introduced in the Sixty-first Congress is also included in the document.

One of the bills creates a separate department of the Congressional library, "to be known as the legislative division of the Congressional library," and the other reads: "A bureau to be known as the United States reference bureau, to be administered by a chief appointed by the President of the United States."

It would seem, on examination of the material offered, that the services of the so-called legislative reference bureaus included at one extreme the accumulation of ordinary printed source material, and at the other the drafting of bills, and intermediate between these, various degrees of a service purely bibliographic and interpretative. The collection of material and the preparation of bibliographic service is already in operation in the Library of Congress as it is in the live state libraries of the country, and any legislation relating thereto simply means to specialize the work under a particular title.

The drafting of bills, it has been stated, is not necessarily nor appropriately the task of the library at all. That there should be experts to examine and perfect in form bills before they are acted upon by legislative bodies, is too evident a fact to call for question, but whether such experts should be attached to a library is a question. The only gain, seemingly, to come from it is, that, ordinarily, employees being attached to a library might keep the bill-drafting work out of politics, though it is to be feared that "Progressivism" will have to expand considerably before that is an assured fact.

"Women of the Cæsars," by Prof Ferrero, "The awakening of the American business man," by Will Irwin, "The A B C of the tariff question," by Andrew Carnegie, in the *May Century*, furnish interesting material by eminent persons on live topics of the day. Small libraries with a scarcity of new books find duplicates of the magazine helpful.

Some Literary Confusions

Kate Douglas Wiggin (Mrs. George C. Riggs) has two grievances in an otherwise singularly happy existence. Her literary name is seldom spelled correctly and she is persistently quoted as the author of "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Why Mrs Wiggin, a writer, should be confused with Mrs Wiggs, a character in a book, is not very clear. Why readers never look at a title page is another mystery. If they ever did they would discover that Alice Hegan Rice wrote "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "Lovey Mary," and "Mr Opp," while Kate Douglas Wiggin is responsible for "The Birds' Christmas Carol," "Timothy's Quest," "A Cathedral Courtship," "Rose o' the River," the Penelope and Rebecca books, and others, on which her name is plainly printed and correctly spelled. Not that this is of the slightest use. Program makers look calmly at Douglas and copy it as Douglass; also at Wiggin and print it as Wiggins.

Autograph seekers invariably begin their requests: "Dear Miss Wiggins—will you kindly send me your autograph? I should prefer a quotation from Rebecca or Mrs Wiggs."

London is no better informed than New York. At a large luncheon given to Mrs. Wiggin by a London literary club (the invitations reading as usual: "To meet Kate Douglass Wiggins") the secretary rose to propose the health of the American guest. At the close of her delightful speech, in which the lady evinced that she was perfectly conversant with Mrs Wiggin's literary work, she said: "And last but not least we must thank her for 'Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch'!" The faces of those who saw their spokesman making a *faux pas*, but were helpless to aid her, were laughable in their consternation and embarrassment.

"You have had one success in England already," said Sir Charles Wyndham to the author of "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," when witnessing a performance of her play at the Republic theatre. "You

have achieved one triumph in London already and this will be a greater one."

"But alas! I have never had a play presented in London!" replied Rebecca's literary mother.

"Is not 'Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch' yours?" asked Sir Charles.

"No, it was written by Alice Hegan, now Mrs Rice," responded Mrs Wiggin.

"That is just what I said last night at dinner," interposed Miss Mary Moore, "and you remember, Sir Charles, that everybody at the table politely contradicted me."

"I wish I knew the names of the guests. I could send them abstracts of my feelings, also those of Alice Rice," exclaimed Mrs. Wiggin vindictively; "but it would be of no use! Unless I have my tombstone carved during my lifetime they will put an 's' on Wiggin and a double 's' on Douglas. If there is room at the bottom they will probably add: 'Here lies the author of 'Mrs Wiggs'!'"

Bibliography of Library Economy*

Here is what the whole regiment of library workers has been waiting for this long while. Nearly everyone who has been dealing with definite library problems has felt the burden of locating the material which he has read at one time or another on the problem at hand and the despair of finding it in the mass of material confronting him on his professional literature shelves. While some help has been given by the H. W. Wilson current publication, *Library Work*, the need of what is to be had now from Mr Cannons' bibliography has been severely felt.

The bibliography represents a prodigious amount of labor and careful working out of preliminary plans, judged by the results presented. There are over 15,000 entries arranged in a classified, logical sequence, under 1900 subject headings, entries being placed in order of

date to present the subject in its historical aspect, the whole being preceded by an elaborate and detailed scheme of classification, specially prepared for the work, and an alphabetical subject index comprising over 2500 direct references. It thus forms a classified bibliography to all articles appearing in the professional publications during the period, 1876-1909.

The bibliography is an open sesame to a mine of discussion of every conceivable library problem in all countries and in all times, and is especially full in the entries relating to the library movement in the United States.

The thanks of the library world are due Mr Cannons, and it is to be hoped that its gratitude may take a substantial form in view of the very low price of the bibliography.

One hesitates to criticize, in the slightest degree, anything conceived in the helpful spirit of the bibliography, but so excellent a piece of work is surely worthy of a better dress and environment than are given in this particular instance. One may change his own copy, of course, but he still remembers the shock of its first appearance.

Development of Notation in Classification

A paper under this title, read before the Library assistants' association on January 11, forms No. 3 of the Library assistants' association series. It is written by H. Rutherford Purnell, of the Croydon public libraries, honorary editor of the *Library Assistant*.

Mr Purnell traces the development of classification from earliest time, giving particular attention to the classification of the Bodleian library.

The classification in this library illustrates every change in the development of classification down to the present, where a particularly effective classification, worked out on the needs of the particular situation there, is deserving of close attention, in the author's opinion, though he also considers it unsuitable for any other library.

Especially interesting is the develop-

*Bibliography of library economy, 1876-1909. A classified index to the professional periodical literature relating to library economy, printing, methods of publishing, copyright, bibliography, etc. H. G. T. Cannons, Borough Librarian, Finsbury, London. Stanley Russell & Co., Colonial House, Tooley street, S. E., London, 1910. 7s. 6d.

ment of classification on the principle of relative location, by which books were individualized without necessity of being assigned to any particular locality.

The development of the Decimal classification of Mr Dewey, the Expansive scheme of Mr Cutter, and Mr Brown's Adjustable classification, and his later work, Subject classification, are compared impartially.

The subject of notation in classes is also discussed, and illustrations of various forms are dealt with. The notation of the International Institute of Bibliography at Brussels in its expansion of the decimal notation, by which almost any conceivable subject, its special point of view, and even its relation to other subjects, are pointed out.

In his survey of notation Mr Purnell has brought together interesting and important material, and the pamphlet is one which ought to be in the library of every professional worker.

The price of this interesting pamphlet is 3d.

A New Book by J. N. Larned

"Napoleon, a prodigy without greatness; Cromwell, imperfect in greatness; Washington, impressive in greatness; Lincoln, simplest in greatness." These are the four subjects which J. N. Larned (one time president of A. L. A.) takes up in his "A study of greatness in men." And the three following requirements in the making of a great man are the tests by which he makes the above given opinions: 1) Great endowments, so much beyond the gifts of faculty or power to common men that they surprise our wonder and admiration, whatever their nature may be. 2) Great opportunity for the adequate exercise and demonstration of such endowments, without which they remain undeveloped as well as unknown. 3) Great motives and purposes in the use of whatever the great endowments may be, so that they be not wasted on worthless employments or defiled by an evil use.

Library Schools

University of Illinois

The circulars giving full information concerning the summer courses in library training to be given at the University of Illinois in Urbana, beginning June 26 and lasting six weeks, have been issued and will be sent to anyone on request. Miss Simpson, reference librarian and instructor in the library school, and Ida F. Wright, assistant librarian of the Lincoln library, Springfield, will be the principal instructors and give their whole time to the work of the summer courses. They will be assisted by Miss Allin, organizer of the Illinois library extension commission, by various members of the University library staff and by a reviser. No tuition is charged students from Illinois libraries.

Miss Lyman is giving during the month of April the regular instruction in the selection of children's books and in library work with children. Twenty lecture hours are required of the seniors and eight hours of the juniors, besides the usual preparation for each hour and besides personal conferences. The school's collection of children's books has reached a considerable number of volumes during the last few years, the selection being largely Miss Lyman's own.

On the completion of the senior course in library architecture, Prof. F. M. Mann, in charge of the department of architecture of the university, met the class, went over the building plans which had been prepared by each student as a final problem, and gave many valuable suggestions and criticisms. Both students and instructor greatly appreciated the opportunity of having a professional architect's point of view presented to them.

The Library club held its regular meeting on Tuesday evening, April 4, at the Alpha Chi Omega house. Mr Windsor, director of the school, gave a talk on personal recollections of Texas. This was followed by a story delightfully told by Miss Lyman.

The senior class was entertained by

Miss Simpson and Miss Price at their residence on Tuesday afternoon, April 11.

Alumni notes

Marcia B. Clay, B. L. S., '05, is at work in the Cleveland public library.

Etna Phillips, 1909-10, has been promoted and is now librarian of the Southern Illinois normal school at Carbondale, and Lois Gray, 1909-10, has been made assistant in the same library.

Charles C. Knapp, 1909-10, is a temporary cataloger in the library of the medical department of Washington university at St Louis.

New York state library

The fire which destroyed the New York state library Tuesday morning, March 28, also totally destroyed the quarters of the New York state library school with its records, books and equipment, including the private professional collections of the students and most of the faculty members.

In spite of the almost overwhelming character of the disaster, the regular school schedule was suspended only 24 hours until temporary quarters were assigned it in the State normal college, Albany.

This was made possible by prompt action on the part of the faculty in adapting itself to changed conditions; to the cordiality and promptness with which the Pruyn library, the Y. M. A. library, the Y. M. C. A. library, the libraries of the Albany high school, the State normal college and the Catholic union were placed at the disposal of the school; and, last but far from least, the pluck and steadiness with which the students faced the crisis. Lectures and even practice work were continued on a regular schedule until April 4, when the school started on its regular biennial trip to libraries of New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Trenton and Washington, the trip being shifted three weeks ahead of its scheduled time to permit the faculty to reconstruct in part their courses from the note-books and other material lent by several recent students.

The hospitality shown everywhere on

the trip and the large collection of illustrative material given the students and the school already form a fair working basis for a new collection of professional material. Many of the courses had already passed the point at which detailed problems had ceased to be given and the need of many books being thus much less imperative, it will be comparatively easy to finish the work of the present year in the temporary quarters in the State normal college. The senior course in Subject bibliography was finished and that on History of libraries begun by Mr Biscoe in the Library of Congress, thanks to the kindness of Mr Putnam.

Plans for the next year are not yet fully determined. The summer course will be omitted until 1912. Offers of temporary quarters for the school from Brooklyn public library, Gloversville, Syracuse university and Utica, and definite offers of assistance from many other prominent libraries make the continuance of the school under favorable conditions an assured fact. The circular of information which was in press will be revised to meet the changed conditions and will be issued as soon as practicable. Substantial gifts of library publications and other professional literature have been promised and any others will be gratefully received. Duplicates can be well used to help replenish the collections not only of the school but of the faculty and students. Former students are especially urged to furnish additional copies of any publications of their own to replace those destroyed in the students' work collection.

New records will be prepared at once, new material collected, and there is every reason to believe that the disaster may in the end prove not a devitalizing shock, but a stimulus to renewed energy and a drastic opportunity for revision and improving the entire curriculum.

F. K. WALTER, Vice-director.

Western Reserve university

The lecture on the foundation established here by the alumni of the library school was given on April 3 by Dr Ar-

thur Bostwick, librarian of the St Louis public library. His subject was "The advertisement of ideas," in which in a most interesting manner he discussed the ways a library may legitimately extend the knowledge of its existence and contents to the public. Besides the class and the alumni in the city, many friends of the school both in library and university circles were invited, and after the lecture an informal tea was given.

Within the last month the following outside lecturers have lectured at the school in the book selection course: Anna G. Hubbard, head of the order department of the Cleveland public library, gave two out of a series of five lectures on book buying; Prof. Benton, of Adelbert college, one on historical material, and Prof. Arbuthnot, also of the college, on the literature of economics.

Two of the recent library visits of the class have been of unique interest and very much enjoyed. One was made to the clothcraft shop of the Joseph & Feiss Company for the sake of seeing a library operated in connection with the welfare work of a large factory. The students were shown not only the library but the entire plant of this model factory for the making of clothing. The other visit was at Western Reserve historical society, where the students were given an interesting talk by Mr Dyer, the curator of the society, on the valuable possessions of its library in the shape of old books and documents relating to Ohio history.

On March 17 the class gave a St Patrick's Day supper to the staff, with entertainment appropriate to the day in wit and color, and on the afternoon of March 23 the school was "at home" to friends of the members of the class.

JULIA M. WHITTLESEY, Director.

Wisconsin library school

The first semester closed January 31 with a week devoted to examinations in all subjects covered during the term, completing the work in the principal technical courses.

During the month of January the school was honored by visits from J. I.

Wyer jr, director of the New York state library and president of the American library association, and Prof. Katharine Coman, Department of economics in Wellesley college. Mr Wyer addressed the students in regular lecture time on "The point of view." In the evening the school shared his lecture, "Without the walls," with the other library workers in Madison. He was a most welcome visitor, and presented the message of library work so vitally that all went forward with new courage. The faculty entertained Mr Wyer at luncheon, giving all an opportunity to meet him personally.

Prof. Coman addressed the students on the ideals of book-selection, with special reference to the literary tastes of the foreign element in our midst.

Through the courtesy of the Madison woman's club the students had the pleasure of hearing Dr Guthrie's address to the club on "The theater and the community."

The field practice, which has, from the beginning, been made a strong feature in the policy of the school, began February 3. The schedule of appointments follows:

For special cataloguing

Green Bay—February, Miss Lewis and Miss Mumm; March, Miss Mumm and Miss Doris Greene.

Janesville—February, Margaret Greene and Miss Eastland; March, Miss Greene and Miss Dunton.

Merrill—February, Miss Spencer and Miss Kosek; March, Miss Spencer.

Mondovi—February, Miss Bergold and Miss Fihe; March, Miss Bergold.

Monroe—February, Miss Warren and Miss Pond; March, Miss Warren and Miss Haley, Miss Muir for two weeks.

Wauwatosa—February, Miss Dunton.

Assistance for special work

Edgerton—February, Miss Dow; March, Miss Pond.

Fond du Lac—March, Miss Lewis.

Whitewater—March, Miss Cobb.

Legislative reference work

Wisconsin library commission—Legislative reference department—February, Miss Muir; March, Miss Kautz and Miss Muir for two weeks.

Historical Library

Wisconsin state historical library—February and March, Miss Dexter and Miss Martin.

Appointed to regular co-operating libraries

Antigo—February, Miss Cobb and Miss Kautz; March, Miss Dow and Miss Kosek.
 Baraboo—February, Miss Doris Greene.
 Madison—February, Miss Haley; March, Zela Smith; February and March, joint course students, Miss Cook, Miss Farquhar, Miss Flower, Miss Morgan, Miss Potts, Miss Richardson and Mabel Smith.
 Manitowoc—March, Miss Pleasants.
 Marinette—February, Miss Pleasants.
 Watertown—February, Zela Smith; March, Miss Eastland.
 Wausau—March, Miss Fihe.

Summer Schools**Illinois**

A summer course in library training for librarians and library assistants will be held at the University of Illinois library school, June 26-August 5, 1911. No entrance examination will be required and no fee will be charged Illinois librarians; the fee for others is \$12. Cost of living need not exceed \$36. Application should be made before June 12. Full information sent on request by the Director of University of Illinois library school, Urbana, Ill.

Indiana

A summer library school will be held at Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., June 28-August 8. The instructors will be Carl H. Milam, secretary of the Public library commission; Florence R. Curtis, of the Illinois library school; W. M. Hepburn, of Purdue university; Carrie E. Scott, of the Library commission. Special lecturers will also be heard.

The course will be general, covering in an elementary way all the common phases of library work. There is no entrance examination, and the school is open only to those holding library positions or under definite appointment to such.

Members of the school will be expected to have read with care, before coming to the school, Dana's Library primer and Bostwick's The American public library.

For further information address Secretary of the Public library commission, State house, Indianapolis.

Iowa

The Iowa library commission will hold its eleventh annual session of summer

school for library training at Iowa City, as a department of the summer session of the state university, June 19-July 29. Classes will be open to those holding library positions or under definite appointment. Instructions will be given in fundamental subjects relating to library organization and methods.

Edna Lyman of Chicago, now the advisory children's librarian of the Iowa library commission, will give a course in library work with children, covering two weeks, and students will be admitted for it alone.

Specific information will be sent prospective students on application to Alice S. Tyler, Iowa library commission, Des Moines.

Minnesota

The Minnesota public library commission will hold a summer school for library training at the State university, June 19-July 28, 1911, in connection with the University summer school. The usual elementary course is offered, designed especially to meet the actual needs of small libraries in Minnesota. All regular lectures are given by members of the commission staff, with special lectures by visiting librarians.

Further information may be obtained by addressing the director, Clara F. Baldwin, Secretary, The Capitol, St Paul, Minn.

Pennsylvania

A summer school for special training in library work will be held by the Free library commission of Pennsylvania at State college, June 26-August 4. The school will be open only to those already engaged in library work or under definite appointment. Credentials will be required from both classes of applicants.

Further information will be furnished on application to the Free library commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Canada

A summer school for librarians will be held at McGill university library, Montreal, June 21-July 22, 1911. For particulars address librarian of McGill university.

News from the Field

East

The expenditures for the Free library of Newton, Mass., were \$18,529, of which \$8200 was for salaries and \$4400 for books. The circulation was 271,269 v., with 78,450 v. in the library.

Mrs Helen Harrington left \$100 to the Springfield (Vt.) town library without specifications as to use. Hilar E. Roberts of Boston gave during the past two years 5000 v. to the Alden Speare memorial library of Chelsea, Vt.

Henry Mitchell Whitney, the last of the four distinguished brothers of the name, died in New Haven, March 26. Since 1889 Mr Whitney had been head of the Blackstone memorial library in Branford, Conn. He was a brother of the late James Lyman Whitney, for many years connected with the Boston public library.

The report of the Public library of Milton, Mass., records number of books on the shelves, 24,064; circulation, 61,919; cardholders, 3117. There were 75 meetings of various kinds held in the library during the year, outside of the regular library use. Exhibits were as follows: Philippine Islands, Historical Milton, a flag exhibit, and schoolroom decoration.

New free public libraries have just been established in Vermont by vote of their town meetings in the towns of Colchester, Grand Isle, Lowell, Middlebury, Roxbury, Troy, Weathersfield, and Williamstown. These make 126 free public libraries owned and controlled by the towns of the state which have been founded with the aid of the state, and 183 libraries in all in the state.

The report of the Salem (Mass.) public library announces that an addition to the library building will probably be built during the current year. Charles C. Soule is expert adviser and C. H. Blackall of Boston is architect. Three delivery stations were opened in the spring of 1910. They are each open two afternoons and evenings in the week, and

although the quarters are inconvenient and unattractive, the average circulation per week is 184, 195 and 124. Land has been bought in South Salem on which it is planned to build a branch library after the additions and alterations at the main library are completed.

The annual report of the Public library of Attleborough, Mass., records a circulation of 50,233 v., 13,827 v. on the shelves. Cardholders, 4430.

During the year 17 library art club exhibits were held.

The lecture course for the year was highly successful. The total income of the library was \$7249. Salaries and wages, \$3098; books and periodicals, \$2114; binding, \$319.

Drew P. Hall, librarian of the Mill-cent library at Fairhaven, Mass., has been elected librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) public library, to succeed the late Sam Walter Foss. Mr Hall was graduated from Bowdoin college in '99 and received the degree of B. L. S. from the New York state library school, 1901. Mr Hall has been at Fairhaven for 10 years, and will begin his new duties in Somerville on June 1.

The report of the Harvard university library records five distinct needs: There are 75,000 v. or pamphlets whose titles are not in the public catalog, 200,000 v. either unclassified or in classifications so defective that new ones must be made; recasting of the subject catalog; the pressing need of adopting for the Harvard catalog the card of standard size, and the necessity of a new library building has been pointed out so often, says the report, that there is little more to be said on the subject, except that every year makes the situation worse.

The total number of volumes in the library, 882,104; pamphlets, 543,787. The library has profited the past year by an unusual number of gifts, both of money and books.

There are 32 special reference libraries housed outside of Gore hall, containing an aggregate of 61,019 v. Use of books

in Gore hall, 94,160. There were permanently located in the stack during the last year 24,120 v. Titles cataloged, 25,290. Amount spent for books, \$38,763. Number of books purchased, 8577; gifts, 26,489.

The annual report of the Public library of Fitchburg, Mass., for 1910 records number of books on the shelves, 52,578; circulation, 73,633; per cent of fiction, 70.4. Number of borrowers registered, 5049; population, 37,826. About 600 engravings, dating from the earliest days of the art to the end of the eighteenth century, have been added to the collection.

About 150 v. of classical music, arranged for the piano, have been added to the music library, the gift of a citizen.

All classes of books are kept on the open shelves in the delivery hall, particularly books on important subjects of the day. In the industrial room are books of interest to all workers in the city.

The expenditures of the year were as follows: Salaries, \$5141; books, \$1441; periodicals, \$319; binding, \$388; total expense, \$9004.

The report of the Memorial Hall library of Andover, Mass., makes an appeal for larger quarters and more books. The appeal voices a situation that is not uncommon in many children's departments where the librarian questions seriously whether it is advisable to continue to encourage the children to come to the library when there is neither space nor material to give them.

From 1500 books in the children's department there was a circulation of 8875 v. Books issued for home use from the library, 33,004. Percentage of non-fiction, 31. Number of cardholders, 2242.

A rather unusual item is that which states that nearly 200 different gifts of flowers were brought to the library, together with a large number of window plants. An interesting gift was a copy of the charter granted in 1692 by William and Mary to the "Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay." The work was printed in Boston in 1726.

The annual report of the Public library of Laconia, N. H., records 17,665 v. and 10,207 pamphlets on the shelves, from which there was a circulation last year of 41,129 v. for home use; fiction, 86 per cent. A case for the latest non-fiction books is kept in the delivery room, also one filled with books in French and with fiction from the A. L. A. catalog. The titles are changed frequently.

Much interest has been developed by placing two globes, one celestial and the other terrestrial, in the entrance hall. The picture collection available for school use contains 1277 mounted pieces. About one person in five of the population draws books for home use.

The income for the year was \$5797. Of this, \$2330 was expended for salaries, \$1044 for books, \$226 for periodicals, and \$137 for binding. The need of a children's department is strongly emphasized.

Central Atlantic

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has returned to full time, open 9 a. m.-9 p. m. This is made possible by an increased appropriation of council. The appropriation last year was cut so that the entire system was closed several hours more than the usual schedule for year previous.

George H. Baker, librarian emeritus of Columbia university, died March 27, in his sixty-first year. He entered Columbia university library in 1883 as assistant and was made librarian in 1889, on Mr Dewey's removal to Albany. Dr Canfield became librarian 10 years later, and Mr Baker then became librarian emeritus and engaged in the study of art and in literary work.

The annual report of the Public library of Trenton, N. J., for 1910 records number of books on the shelves, 47,673; circulation, 218,840; registered borrowers, 28,809; city appropriation, \$24,000. Books purchased, 4921.

The feature of the year was the opening in November, 1910, of the first branch library in its own building, erected on the fringe of the manufacturing district. The

main library was erected 10 years ago. Plans are being prepared for its enlargement shortly.

The report of the Public library of Kearny, N. J., records a circulation of 70,490 v. This was for a period of 17 months, with an average circulation of 4146 v. a month. There are 8101 v. in the library. The receipts of the library for the year were \$5954. Salaries, \$2745; books, \$884; periodicals, \$137; binding, \$210; total expenditure, \$5686.

William M. Stevenson, Ph.D., has been appointed assistant-in-charge of the Sociological department recently opened by the Brooklyn public library as an adjunct to the Main reference department of the library, 107 Montague street. Dr Stevenson was librarian of the Carnegie free library at Allegheny, Pa., from 1890 to 1904, and has been a student of library science and related subjects in Germany and Switzerland from 1904 to date.

The report of the Public library of Newark, N. J., records a circulation from the library and its branches of 153,682 v. among the young people. Through the schools 126,129 v. were lent, making a total of 279,811 v. in the hands of the young people. In the juvenile circulating department room 24 lessons were given to classes from the Normal school.

Number of borrowers holding cards, 33,336; books lent from lending room, 263,762. The distributing agencies of the library are the lending department, technical department, art department, and children's department, 489 school libraries, 6 branches, 12 deposit stations, and 23 other agencies, including post-office, fire houses, police stations, etc. The total number of distributing stations last year was 542, and from them all were lent 929,665 v.

Last year the staff compiled and multi-graphed 401 different book lists on topics of current interest; addressed and mailed about 10,000 circulars and letters having to do with exhibitions, meetings, the library's books, and other resources; cared for 6 exhibitions and 21 lectures

in connection with the library and 651 meetings in rooms not yet taken for library purposes, including lectures of an educational or philanthropic or civic-betterment nature; installed and managed 3 exhibitions for the Newark museum association.

The annual report of the Buffalo public library records a circulation of 1,368,425. There was a loss in the number of volumes of fiction drawn and a gain in the circulation of books in other classes. Number of registered borrowers, 75,970. No record is kept of the number of persons using books in the traveling libraries. The number of borrowers registered during the year was greater by 1000 than the registration of 1909. There are 284,176 bound volumes and 29,014 pamphlets.

The need of a special room for technical books and periodicals with special attendant familiar with such books and a room for books in foreign languages with open shelves is noted. A proposition for closer alliance with the Grosvenor library (reference) is urged as a matter of economy, as the present reference work requires the use of many expensive serial publications, the cataloging and shelving of public documents, and many books which cannot circulate.

The new plan of having the cards expire three years from the date of issue will provide against the annual congestion at the registration desk. The income of the library was \$117,158; expenditures, \$112,862. Amount spent for books, \$29,504; periodicals, \$1778; binding, \$8955; salaries, library employees, \$46,153; building employees, \$6613.

During the year two new branches were opened.

Central

Sabra Nason, formerly librarian at Iron Mountain, Mich., has been elected librarian of the Public library at Fort Dodge, Ia.

The Public library of Crawfordsville, Ind., is making a collection of auto-graphed copies of Indiana writers. Among those thus far secured is a set

of the works of Meredith Nicholson, General Lew Wallace, Mrs Susan A. Wallace and Mary Hannah Krout.

Robert M. McCurdy, of the staff of the University of Illinois library, has been appointed librarian of the Mercantile library of Cincinnati.

Ann White, Illinois, '09, for some time with the Studebaker library, South Bend, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Chicago university club.

A. J. Rudolph, for many years connected with the Newberry library, Chicago, and known as the inventor of the "Rudolph indexer," retired as assistant librarian of the Newberry library, April 1.

Readings for the blind are to be conducted in the various branches of the Chicago public library. There are about 2000 blind persons in Chicago, and the teachers of the blind are coöperating with the library in the work undertaken.

The connection of Agnes Van Valkenburg with the Milwaukee public library is severed after 18 years of service. Difference of opinion with the librarian as to policy and the conduct of affairs brought about the change.

C. B. Galbreath, for 15 years state librarian of Ohio, will be superceded by J. H. Newman on July 1. Mr Galbreath has been eminently successful in building up a notably valuable collection in the State library, and his non-appointment is a keen disappointment to those most interested in the library.

The report of the Public library, Elkhart, Ind., for year ending Dec. 31, 1910, records the following:

Population, 19,282; volumes in library, 17,435; pamphlets, 2013; books added during year, 1365; new borrowers, 1015, total, 6895; circulation for home use, 73,254, an increase over 1909 of 6080; total income for the year was \$5590; total expenditures, \$5565, of which \$1619 was for books, periodicals and binding, \$2204 for salaries of library staff, \$922 for janitor's services, heat, repairs, etc., \$818 for miscellaneous.

The report of the Public library of Leavenworth, Kan., shows an increase of 15 per cent in the circulation over the previous year, the increase coming largely from the books in foreign languages lately installed.

Instruction in the use of reference books and catalogs was given to a number of graded classes during the year. Traveling libraries have been sent out to various municipal and educational institutions of the city. The continued expansion of the library work makes a larger appropriation of money imperative. Circulation, 63,763; books on the shelves, 18,166.

In the sixty-fifth annual report of the St Louis mercantile library association, the librarian takes up the question of membership in a subscription library, recommends a uniform rate, reduced in amount, and the abolition of half-yearly subscriptions, provided the future development of the library shall warrant the attempt to make any considerable increase in the number of members. Enlarged quarters in the stack room will allow more storage space.

The present membership is 3575; circulation in 1910 amounted to 124,376 v.; number of volumes on the shelving, 138,975; expenditure for books, \$9425.

The upper wall of the west tower of the Harper memorial library, in course of construction at the University of Chicago, crashed inward March 29, demolishing the interior of the tower from top to bottom.

The loss, which falls on the contractor, is estimated at \$50,000. It was hoped to have the library complete for dedication at the June convocation. That is an impossibility now. The upper floor of the tower was loaded with heavy machinery and hoisting cranes and it is thought that the floor may have been overloaded. It is also thought that laying concrete in freezing weather may have had something to do with it.

South

Elizabeth Wilkerson, librarian of Goodwin institute, of Memphis, Tenn.,

was married March 17 to Thomas R. Lill of New York.

The ninth annual report of the Carnegie library of Nashville, Tenn., contains not only a comprehensive report of the work of the year, but outlines directions in which the librarian presents glowing opportunities for increased usefulness. New forms of service installed during the year were the information desk, model room for supplementary reading designed to assist in better selection of books to supplement school courses. An interesting item is the classification of borrowers. Under the term "laborers" 1934 are registered; merchants, 1748; men students, 1412; women students, 1094; men clerks, 1017; women clerks, 832. Circulation, adult, 69,143; juvenile, 29,263; school, 48,000; total, 146,406. Volumes on shelves, 54,434.

The annual report of the Rosenberg library, Galveston, Tex., for 1910 shows loans for home use of 78,639 v., an increase of about 13 per cent. over 1909. The library has over 42,000 v. and 21,000 pamphlets, 3170 v. having been added during the year. The library maintains a small branch library for colored people, with good use. A trained and experienced children's librarian is now in charge of the children's department and the work is receiving greater attention than before. A dozen or more instructive lectures are given free each year in the library lecture hall. The library spends \$800 to \$1,000 a year for the work of this department, which has become very popular.

The Rosenberg library was founded and endowed as a free public library by Henry Rosenberg of Galveston. The total assets of the institution are now over \$800,000. About \$570,000 is a permanent endowment fund and the fund is increasing each year. The fine Italian renaissance building cost about \$155,000 in 1904 (exclusive of shelving and furniture), but was erected under exceptionally favorable conditions and would now probably cost as much as \$225,000.

West

The annual report of the Public library of Fort Collins, Colo., gives the number of volumes accessioned 947; in the library, 7729; card holders, 3005; volumes circulated, 29,706; publications on file in reading room, 112.

The thirty-fourth annual report of the Omaha public library records the number of books in the library 88,748; number of borrowers, 15,049; population of Omaha, 124,096; circulation, exclusive of schools, 218,999; pictures circulated, 9248; the per cent of fiction, 51.06. Every Wednesday from November to May stories were told to the children, with an average attendance of 56.

The tenth annual report of the Oklahoma City public library makes the following record: Accessions, 2383; total volumes in the library, 17,696; circulation for home use, 80,997; registration cards added during the year, 2752; total number of borrowers' cards issued, 15,011; total expenditures, \$9138; books and periodicals, \$2052; salaries, library staff, \$3662, janitor, \$740.

Sveinbjorn Johnson, legislative reference librarian of North Dakota, has resigned his position, after three years' service, to take up the practice of law at Cavalier, N. D. Resolutions were adopted by the commission commending the industry, thoroughness and discretion he has shown in developing this difficult and important branch of commission work. Iver A. Acker has been elected successor to Mr Johnson, to begin work September 1. Mr Acker is particularly well equipped educationally to fill Mr Johnson's position, having had several months' training as assistant to Mr Johnson.

The report of the Oregon library commission shows 9574 v. in its traveling libraries; during the last two years, 45,238 v. have been loaned. Under a conservative estimate over 135,714 readers have used books during the biennial period. Libraries are stationed in 103 places in the state.

The report is most interesting in its details of the needs of the district. "Ore-

gon wants settlers, and these settlers want good schools and good libraries for themselves and their children."

The Oregon law provides that the school libraries of the state shall be under the supervision of the commission. This insures good books at a minimum price. It is stated that if the school districts of Oregon ordered these books for themselves, a conservative estimate would make their cost at least one-third higher, or about \$10,000 more during the two years just ended.

Every phase of the work under the commission receives the closest attention in the report, and neither legislator nor private citizen need to wish for more information than is furnished in the report of Cornelia Marvin, secretary of the Oregon library commission.

Pacific coast

The biennial report of the California state library has been distributed. The income of the library for the period was \$116,304; expenditures, \$109,116. A feature of the report, which for purposes of comparison might profitably be followed by other libraries, is the list of the staff, showing salaries, increases, resignations, appointments and transfers. The Legislative and municipal reference department has been reorganized and will give special attention to work with municipalities, debating clubs and individuals desiring information on current economic subjects, as well as to continue the legislative reference service.

Attention is called to the fact that the regular reference work is largely carried on by correspondence, and that books are shipped, for reference purposes, to all parts of the state. A hindrance to the fullest extension of such activity is the rate charged for carrying books. Progress is reported in developing the collection of Californiana; information about California artists, authors, musicians, pioneers and early settlers is systematically gathered and arranged. Recently much progress has been made in collecting reproductions of the work of California artists.

Since the preceding biennial report a

Documents department has been organized for the purpose of more carefully arranging and completing the library's collection of state and national documents and of distributing certain California documents which are given to the State librarian for distribution.

The traveling libraries of the Extension department now number 284 (14,200 v.). During the two years 1325 libraries were sent out to a total of 37,288 borrowers, with a circulation of 113,871. It is expected that as the county library systems are developed the need for the traveling libraries will decrease.

Books for the blind number 1330 v. and the loans for the two years, 7522.

The library's quarters in the recently remodeled Capitol building have been found unsatisfactory.

The library authorities contemplate the establishment of two important branches to serve as distributing centers for the main library; one to be in San Francisco, the other in Los Angeles. As yet suitable quarters have not been found, and the project is in abeyance.

During the legislative sessions of 1909 the library's monthly maintenance fund was increased from \$3500 to \$5000.

The Public library of Los Angeles is prepared to open a department of special interest to business men, made up of a collection of trade catalogs now numbering over 3000, covering practically every line of manufacturing in the United States.

Another collection of special interest is the municipal reference collection presented by Dr Dana W. Bartlett. Very valuable material relating to city planning, brought together for the city-planning conference held in Los Angeles recently, by both the Public library and Dr Bartlett's gift, makes the combined collection extremely valuable.

A diary kept by D. E. Conner, member of the Walker party which made extensive explorations in Arizona in 1862-67, has also become property of the library. This is valuable historical material which the library is most fortunate to have acquired.

Canada

The Westmount public library at Westmount, P. Q., has taken unto itself wings. On February 13 the new building opened with appropriate ceremony. This wing connects with the main building through a conservatory which opens out of the main reading room and contains a children's room, a staff room, a work room. There is a separate entrance for the juvenile visitors also. Miss Scarff, who has been in the library for two years, was appointed children's librarian.

The report of Inspector W. R. Nursey, of the Educational department of the Province of Ontario, on public libraries, literary and scientific institutions, is a record of a year of splendid development.

Every phase of development in the library field in Ontario is reported on, while various reports of committees of the Ontario library association and other library departments are included.

A special committee, with Inspector Nursey, visited the United States for the purpose of reporting on technical education in public libraries. They visited Albany, Boston, Worcester, Providence, Buffalo, Newark, Brooklyn and Niagara Falls. The report states that with the exception of Worcester and Newark not much greater progress has been made in the places visited in this particular than in Canada.

The twenty-seventh report of the Toronto public library shows that this has been the most successful year in its history. The system of registration and issuing of borrowers' tickets was completely changed and has resulted in a large increase in the number of borrowers, in the ease with which the machinery of the library is administered, and in the appreciation by the public in the use of the library. The home circulation increased by one-third. A new branch was opened in the east end of the city and the work with children greatly developed. The cataloging department was put on a better basis, with five assistants, one filing card assistant

and two typists. For the Reference library alone 30,000 cards were added to the catalog. The work of the Reference library showed the greatest numerical increase, just as it did last year. The report shows that 180,000 books were consulted in this department during the year. Nearly 16,000 books were added to the library.

During the years 1909 and 1910 *Bulletins* were published semi-annually, instead of every two years, as formerly. With 1911, the *Bulletin* is being issued each month and contains in dictionary catalog form a list of all the books received and accessioned at the Central circulating library and at the Reference library.

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- 3 in process of construction.

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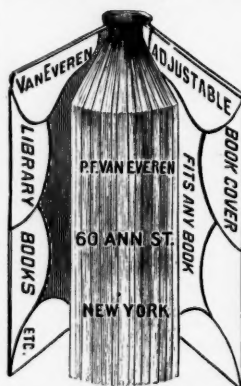
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